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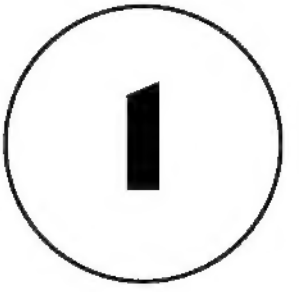
SUZUKA
KOUJI SEO

SUZUKA



Kouji Seo

TRANSLATED AND ADAPTED BY
David Ury

LETTERED BY
Janice Chiang

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Suzuka 1

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A Note from the Author

This story is set in the town where I spent eight years of my life aspiring to be a manga artist. I used to go to the Inari Shrine and pray that I'd "become a manga artist someday." It's amazing that my wish actually came true. I'll never forget the taste of the meat and potato croquettes that I used to eat back then.

Honorifics Explained

Throughout the Del Rey Manga books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many translations into English leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the "feel" of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Del Rey not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Del Rey Manga.

-san: This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., or Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

-sama: This is one level higher than "-san." It is used to confer great respect.

-dono: This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-kun: This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirt."

Sempai/
Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

Kohai: This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

[blank]: Usually forgotten in these lists, but perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute,* it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can also be very insulting.

SUZUKA

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Kouji Seo

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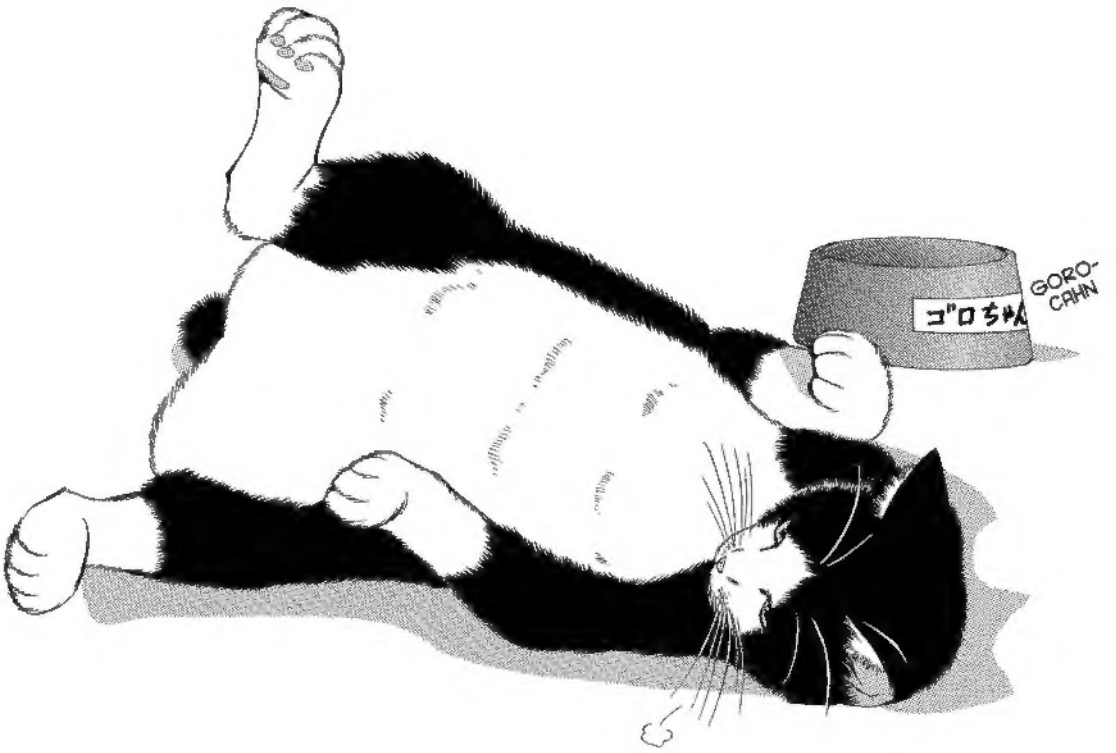
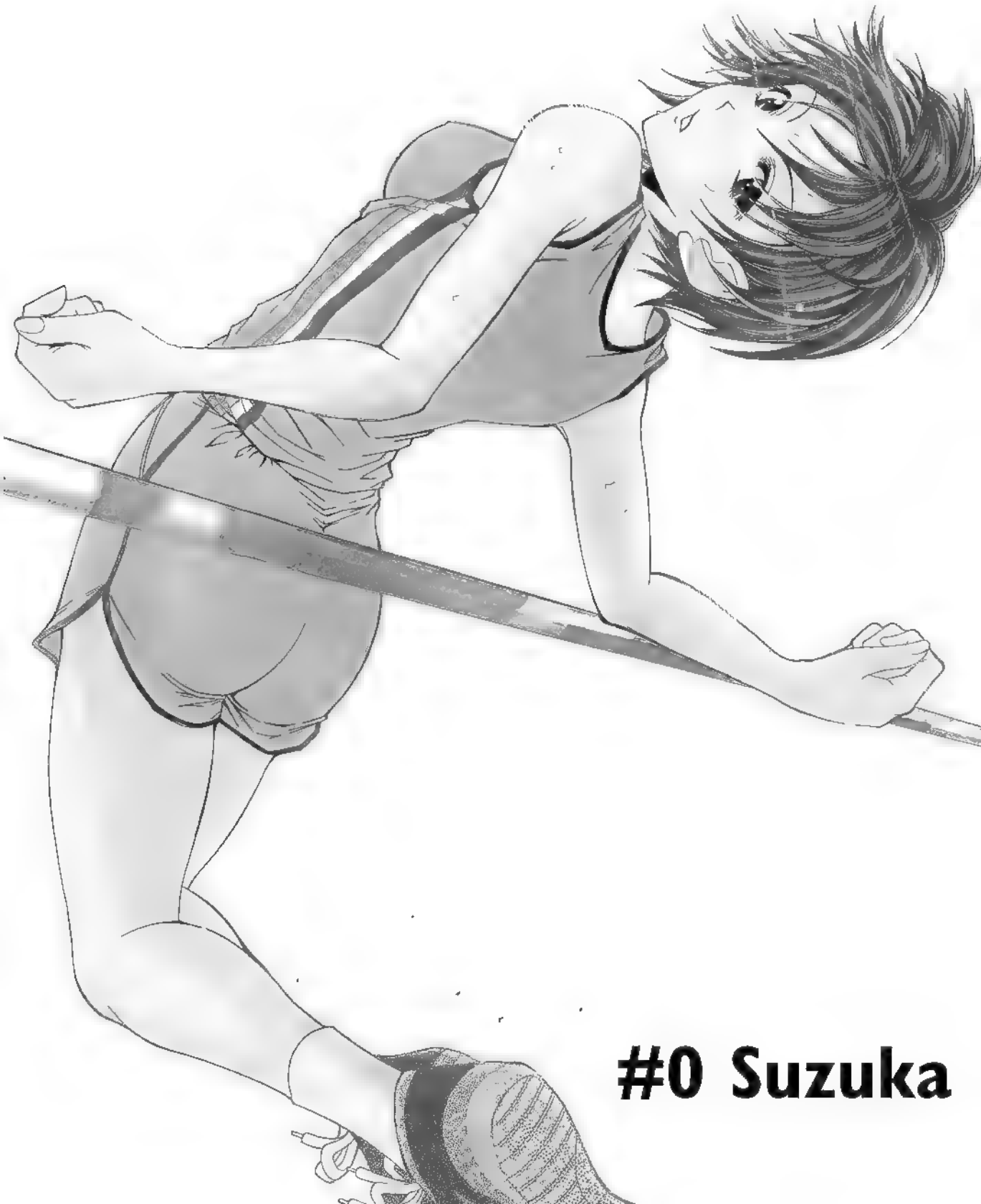


I MADE THE SEVEN-HOUR JOURNEY FROM THE HIROSHIMA COUNTRY-SIDE ALL THE WAY TO TOKYO.
CLOP
IT WAS A RAINY DAY IN TOKYO, JUST A WEEK BEFORE HIGH SCHOOL STARTED...
CLOP
CLOP
...
...WHEN I HAPPENED TO CATCH A GLIMPSE OF HER...
FWISH
SHE LOOKED SO COOL...
...AND I DON'T THINK I'D EVER SEEN...

Suzuka

...SUCH A CUTE GIRL.



#0 Suzuka

...SURE IS LATE.
YAMATO-KUN...
TSSSSS
YOU'RE GONNA CATCH COLD. WHY DON'T YOU WAIT INSIDE, MIHO!
BUT HE SAID HE WOULD BE HERE AT TWO.
MAYBE AUNTIE DECIDED NOT TO LET HIM GO TO SCHOOL IN TOKYO.
DON'T WORRY. MY SISTER SAID SHE'D LET HIM COME AS LONG AS HE STAYS WITH US.
TSSSSSS
HE PROBABLY GOT SIDE-TRACKED ALONG THE WAY.
THAT WOULD BE JUST LIKE HIM, WOULDN'T IT, GORO-CHAN?
MEOWW
STEP

YAMATO AKITSUKI HAS ARRIVED!!
SCHWIP
SORRY I'M LATE!

HUH?
GRIN
I THINK YOU'VE ANGERED, PRINCESS MIHO.
YOU'RE AWFULLY LATE, YAMATO-KUN.

YOU'RE LATE, YAMATO-KUN!

YOU'VE GOTTEN SO BIG. YOU'RE ABOUT TO START JUNIOR HIGH NOW, RIGHT?
MIHO-CHAN!

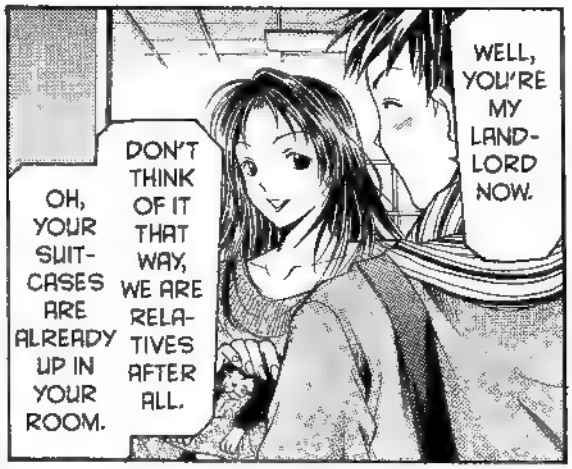
WHOA!
FWAPP

TCH, NO! I'M ALREADY STARTING MY SECOND YEAR! DUH! GEEZ, YOU'RE SO CLUELESS.
HA, HA. I KNEW THAT!
I BET YOU GOT SIDE-TRACKED ALONG THE WAY, DIDN'T YOU?
WHOA! HOW'D YOU KNOW?

I KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU, YAMATO-KUN.
IT'S SO OBVIOUS.

STOP BEING SO FORMAL.
BOW
WELL, AUNTIE AYANO, STARTING TODAY I SHALL BE AT YOUR SERVICE.

YEAH, I GUESS YOU'RE JUST A LITTLE KNOW-IT-ALL, MIHO.
TEE HEE
クスクス
HEE
STOP IT, MOM!
...?


WELL, YOU'RE MY LAND-LORD NOW.
DON'T THINK OF IT THAT WAY, WE ARE RELA-TIVES AFTER ALL.
OH, YOUR SUIT-CASES ARE ALREADY UP IN YOUR ROOM.

HURRY UP, YAMA-TO-KUN!
I'LL SHOW YOU TO YOUR ROOM.
OKAY!
ASAHIYU BATHS

SO, THIS IS MY NEW HOME...
A SUPER SPA AND A LADIES' APARTMENT COMPLEX ALL IN ONE.
THE ASAHIYU HEIGHTS.

WHAT THE HECK IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN? I CAN BE MANLY WHEN I NEED TO BE, AYANO-SAN.
EMPLOYEES ONLY
OH, AND I ALREADY TOLD EVERY-BODY ABOUT YOU.
STEP
STEP
...WELL... IT'S NOT AS IF YOU'RE A STRANGER... BESIDES, IT'LL BE GOOD TO HAVE A MAN AROUND HERE...EVEN A MAN LIKE YOU, YAMATO-KUN.
WE USUALLY DON'T ALLOW MEN HERE, BUT...

I'LL TAKE CARE OF CLEANING THE BATHS AND WHATEVER ELSE YOU NEED ME TO DO. NO PROBLEM.
NOT ONLY AM I NOT PAYING RENT, YOU'RE EVEN PAYING ME TO WORK HERE.

HUH? UH, I WAS CHECKING OUT THE SCHOOL. IT WAS ON THE WAY, SO I FIGURED...
HEY, HEY, YAMATO! WHAT WERE YOU REALLY DOING ON YOUR WAY HERE!

WELL, CLEANING BATHS IS PRETTY TOUGH WORK, YOU KNOW. I HOPE YOU'RE NOT ALL TALK.
DON'T WORRY. I CAN HANDLE IT.

UH... WELL... I GUESS IT'S ABOUT TIME TO START CLEANING THE BATHS.
THAT'S ODD... WHY SO DEFENSIVE, YAMATO-KUN?
WHA- WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THAT'S RIDICULOUS.
GIGGLE
REALLY? ARE YOU SURE YOU WEREN'T OUT TRYING TO PICK UP GIRLS?

MAYBE I DID UNDER-ESTIMATE THIS PLACE.
.....
SCHWUP
SCHWUP
THIS REALLY IS HARD WORK.
FWAHHH

YOUNG GIRLS...
WOW, THEY HAVE A SAUNA AND EVEN A JACUZZI.
IT'S ACTUALLY PRETTY MODERN.
I BET THERE'RE EVEN SOME YOUNG GIRLS WHO COME HERE.
MAYBE SHE'LL STOP BY THE SPA ON HER WAY HOME FROM PRACTICE...
THAT GIRL GOES TO THE SAME SCHOOL AS ME...
I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU COULD "HANDLE IT."
YOU'D BETTER LIVE UP TO YOUR WORD.
WHAT? YOU HAVEN'T EVEN FILLED THE TUBS YET?
!?
SHOCK
WELL, YOU'D BETTER HURRY, IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR—
SQUEAK
SH... SHUT UP! THIS IS NOTHING! I'LL BE FINISHED IN NO TIME!

OH YEAH, I ALMOST FORGOT.
THERE'RE TWO COLLEGE GIRLS LIVING IN OUR COMPLEX.
WATCH OUT FOR THE ONE WITH LONG HAIR.
SHWIP
WHY? IS SHE DANGEROUS OR SOMETHING?
SHE'S EXTREMELY DANGEROUS.
ESPECIALLY WHEN SHE'S AROUND COUNTRY BUMPKINS LIKE YOU...
LIKE I SAID, MEGUMI, JUST GO OUT WITH GUYS AND LET THEM BUY YOU STUFF.
I MEAN, YOU'VE AT LEAST GOTTA MAKE USE OF THOSE HUGE BOOBS OF YOURS, YOU KNOW?
I-I CAN'T DO THAT. I'M NOT LIKE YOU, SAOTOME-SAN.

WHAT? THEY AREN'T?
HUH? THE TUBS AREN'T FULL YET?
HUH?
AH!
NEARSIGHTED.
WAAHHH!
DON'T LOOK!
OUCH! YOUR NAILS!
STAY AWAY FROM HIM, YOU PER-VERT!
HMMMM. THAT'S NOT A BAD-LOOKING FACE HE'S GOT THERE.
AH! THAT MUST BE THE GUY THE LANDLADY WAS TALKING ABOUT. YAMATO-KUN, RIGHT?
HUH? IS SOME-BODY THERE?
GET OUT OF HERE, YOU TWO.
HUH?
BOING

THAT'LL BE 50,000 YEN*, PLEASE.
BOING
GET OUT OF HERE PERVERTED MAN!
AHHHH!
HEY!
WA-WAHHHH!

S-STOP!
!
KYAA!
THUD
OUCH!
WAY TO GO, MEGU-MI-CHAN!
YAMATO-KUN!
I-I THIDN'T THEW IT ON PURPOTH.*
* DIDN'T DO IT ON PURPOSE
THUD

...?!
102
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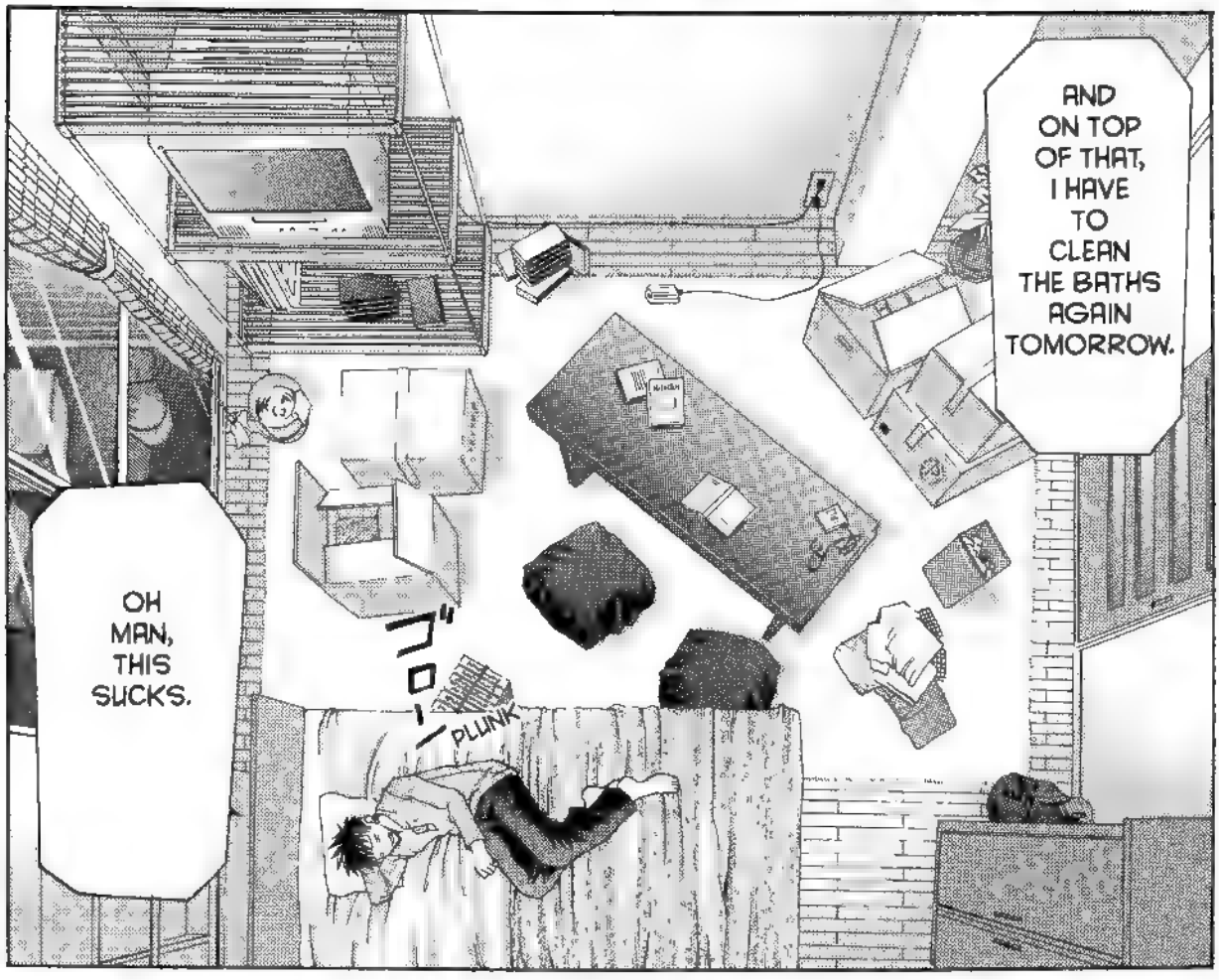
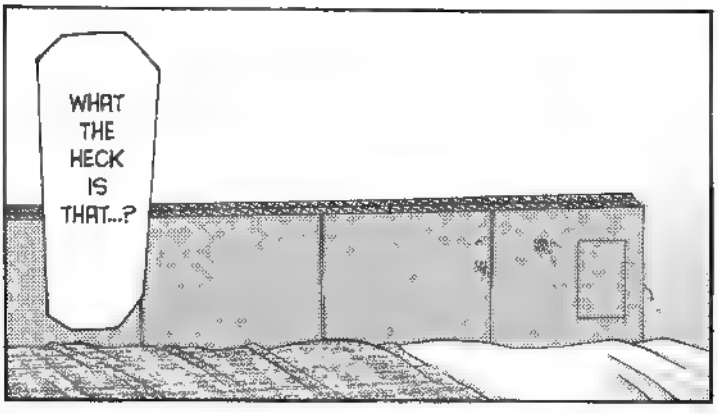
104
HUH...!? IT-IT'S HER! THE GIRL FROM THE TRACK CLUB!

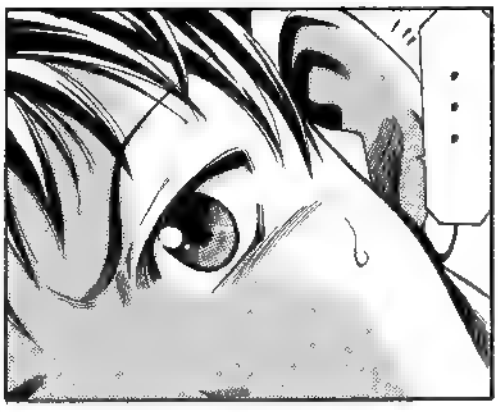
WHAT IS SHE DOING HERE?
UHM... IT- IT'S NOT WHAT YOU-
...IN YOUR OWN ROOM PLEASE?
WOULD YOU MIND DOING THAT...
HEY!
N-NO WAY!
...COULD'VE BEEN ANY WORSE.

I MEAN, SURE I WAS HOPING SHE'D COME, BUT...
GOD, WHAT HORRIBLE TIMING!

301
NHK
AKITSUKI


AND ON TOP OF THAT, I HAVE TO CLEAN THE BATHS AGAIN TOMORROW.
OH MAN, THIS SUCKS.
ゴロー
PLUNK


WHAT THE HECK IS THAT...?


...

HEY, THERE'S A HOLE IN THE WALL.
YOU COULD HAVE AT LEAST PATCHED THIS UP, AYANO-SAN.
...!
PATCH
I WONDER IF IT BOTHERS THE GIRL NEXT DOOR.
HMM... I GUESS THIS HOLE GOES THROUGH TO THE ROOM NEXT DOOR...
I-I WAS JUST ABOUT TO GET STARTED.
THWAP
A-A-YANO-SAN-
YAMATO-KUUUUUN! DID YOU GET ALL YOUR THINGS UNPACKED YET?
HUH?
OH NO!
CRACK
CRACK
BONK

HUH?
IT-
IT'S
YOU!
WHAT
THE
HECK
DO
YOU
THINK
YOU'RE
DOING?
SWAP
I-I
DIDN'T
MEAN
TO...
SMACK
UWAHH!
I-I'M
SORRY...

IT- IT WAS ALREADY BROKEN.
BUT I JUST FIXED THIS SIDE.
HMMPH, AFTER I WENT THROUGH ALL THE TROUBLE OF PLASTERING ON NEW WALL-PAPER.
YOU CAN'T JUST GO BREAKING DOWN THE WALLS, YAMATO-KUN.
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
WAAHHH!
WHY DIDN'T YOU FIX MY SIDE?
DIDN'T YOU THINK I'D BE CURIOUS ABOUT IT?
WELL... IT'S AWFULLY EXPENSIVE. BESIDES, I DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD BOTHER SOMEONE LIKE YOU, YAMATO-KUN.
YAMATO-KUN'S BEEN GETTING INTO TROUBLE EVER SINCE HE WAS A LITTLE KID.
HE MAY GO TO THE SAME HIGH SCHOOL AS YOU, ASAHINA-SAN, BUT HE'S NOWHERE NEAR YOUR LEVEL.
I'M SORRY, ASAHINA-SAN. I'LL HAVE IT FIXED TOMOR-ROW.
WHAT HAVE I DONE...
OKAY... THANK YOU.
WHA- WHAT?

SUZUKA ASAHINA-SAN IS REALLY AMAZING.
SHE DIDN'T GET IN BY BARELY PASSING HER ENTRANCE EXAMS LIKE YOU DID.
SHE WAS RECRUITED BY A TRACK TEAM TALENT SCOUT.
A TALENT SCOUT? WOW...
I KNEW SHE WAS COOL, BUT...
SEE? ISN'T SHE AMAZING?
YEAH.

WELL...
I'LL DO MY BEST.
SHE MIGHT EVEN GO ON TO REPRESENT JAPAN SOMEDAY.
THEN I CAN BRAG TO EVERYBODY ABOUT HOW SHE USED TO LIVE IN MY APARTMENT COMPLEX.
IS SHE REALLY MY AGE...
SHE'S SO COOL... I MEAN SHE'S PRACTICALLY "PERFECT."
LISTEN. I WANT YOU TO CLEAN UP THIS MESS AND GO BACK TO YOUR ROOM.
I'LL HAVE THE REPAIRMAN COME TOMORROW.
AND COMPARED TO HER YOU'RE JUST...
HEY, GO ON, APOLOGIZE!
YANK
I'M SORRY.
OH, AND ASAHINA-SAN, FEEL FREE TO HAVE HIM DO YOUR CLEANING OR ANYTHING ELSE YOU NEED.
...OKAY.
GO AHEAD AND MAKE HIM DO WHATEVER YOU WANT.
SLAM

OKAY.
OH MAN, WHY CAN'T I EVER GET ALONG WITH GIRLS LIKE HER...
CLEAN THIS PLACE UP AND GET OUT OF HERE.
BUT DON'T CUT ANY CORNERS.
HUH?
SWIP
SWIP
UM... THAT... THAT'S PRETTY IMPRESSIVE...
YOU GOT CHOSEN BY A SCOUT... JUST LIKE A CELEBRITY OR SOMETHING...
SO I WOULD ALWAYS SAY, "IF I CAN'T GET A HIT DURING THE GAME, THEN I'LL TREAT THE WHOLE TEAM TO SODAS."
AND THEN, SOMEHOW I'D MANAGE TO GET A HIT.
SWIP
I WAS ON MY JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL'S BASEBALL TEAM BACK IN THE COUNTRY, BUT...
I SUCKED AT HITTING, AND I COULDN'T CATCH WORTH CRAP. I WAS SO BAD. I WAS THE LAUGHING-STOCK OF THE TEAM.
.....
I GUESS I'M GOOD UNDER PRESSURE.

HUH? I'VE NEVER REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT IT, BUT...I GUESS I'D APOLOGIZE.
WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE IF YOU HADN'T GOTTEN A HIT?
I CAN'T STAND...
...PEOPLE WITH THAT WISHY-WASHY ATTITUDE.
SLAM
DON'T APOLO-GIZE TO ME UNLESS YOU MEAN IT.
I HATE PHONY APOLO-GIES.
HUH? WHA-WHAT ARE YOU-
HUH...
UH... SORRY.
DON'T TAKE IT SO SERI-OUSLY.
I WAS JUST TRYING TO BE FUNNY.

ピンポーン

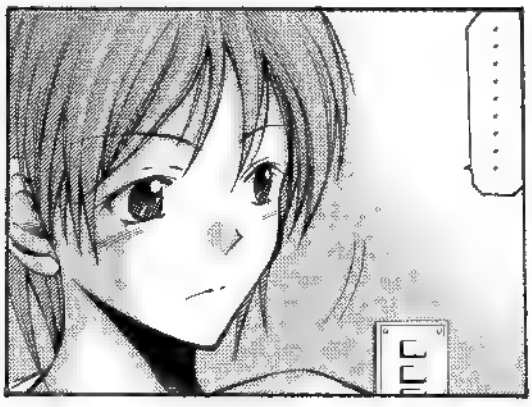
SUZUKA ASAHINA
WHAT NOW?

HEARD HE BROKE THE WA...
HE JUST LEFT

UM. PLEASE, DON'T HATE YAMATO-KUN, OKAY?

DID YOU COME HERE JUST TO TELL ME THAT?
I...I MEAN, WHAT HAPPENED IN THE BATHS TODAY... THAT WASN'T HIS FAULT, IT WAS SAOTOME-SAN...
AND THEN...I PUSHED HIM.. AND...
ASAHIYU BATHS
BECAUSE... IT KIND OF SEEMS LIKE YOU HATE YAMATO-KUN.
YEAH.
HE'S NICE... AND HE MAKES REALLY GOOD OKONO-MIYAKI.
I KNOW HE'S KIND OF A DORK, AND HE MIGHT BE A LITTLE SLOW, BUT HE'S ACTUALLY A REALLY GREAT GUY.
WELL, MAY-BE A LITTLE BIT.
I MEAN, HE DID BREAK MY WALL.
HMMM
WELL, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT, BUT...
302
SUZUKA AS
YOU'RE PRETTY ATTACHED...
...TO YAMATO-KUN, AREN'T YOU?
AM I?

I JUST FEEL THIS NEED TO TAKE CARE OF HIM.
I GUESS IT'S WHAT THEY CALL MATERNAL INSTINCT.


.....

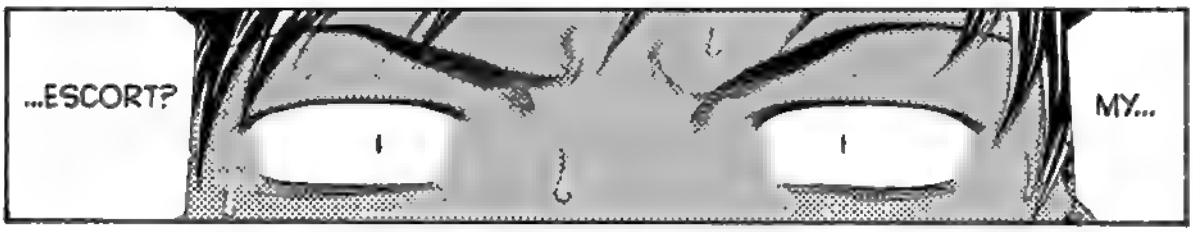
WAIT, MIHO-CHAN...
OKAY?
SO... CUT HIM A LITTLE SLACK.

I'M SOR-RY, MIHO-CHAN, BUT...
THERE'S NO WAY I COULD EVER GET TO LIKE THAT GUY.

OKAY, MAYBE JUST A LITTLE.

IT'S ALREADY TEN...
THE BATHING HOURS ARE OVER, BUT I BET THE WATER IS STILL HOT.
THAT REMINDS ME, BECAUSE OF THAT DORKY GUY, I DIDN'T EVEN GET TO TAKE MY BATH...
I COULD USE THE BATH IN MY ROOM, BUT...
...THAT'S NOT REALLY RELAXING ENOUGH.
I GUESS I SHOULD UNPACK MY BAGS.
I COULD DO IT NOW...
BUT...I GUESS IT CAN WAIT TILL TOMORROW.
IT'S NOT LIKE I'LL GET IN TROUBLE OR ANYTHING.
MAN... ASAHINA SURE IS HARD TO GET ALONG WITH.
I HAVE NO IDEA HOW TO TALK TO HER.
BING BONG
BING BONG
HUH?
...IT COULDN'T BE ASAHINA, COULD IT...
YES.

WA... WAIT, WE SHOULDN'T BE DOING THIS, SAOTOME-SAN.
HI, THERE! I'LL BE YOUR ESCORT THIS EVENING!


...ESCORT?
MY...

UGH, YOU REEK OF BOOZE.
I'M NOT...
...DRUNK
BLEAH

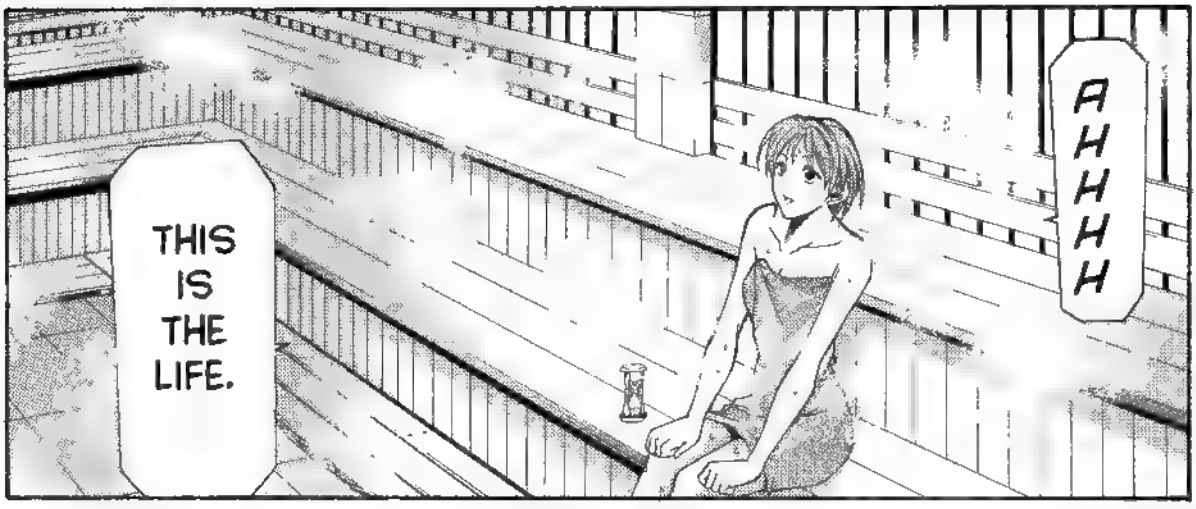
SAO TOME SAN
STEP
SORRY, NO EXCHANGES OR REFUNDS.
STEP
A-ARE YOU DRUNK?

I CAN'T EVEN UNDER-STAND WHAT YOU'RE SAYING.
THWUMP
ME... GU_MI-CHAN! IF THU KEEP THALKING THIKE THAT, GUYTH ARE GOONA THERLP UM ULLL.

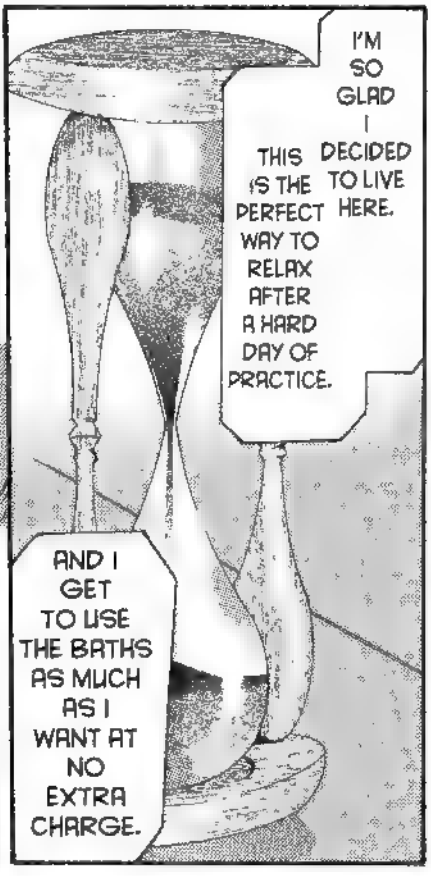
PLEASE DO
I.... I'M SORRY, YAMATO-KUN. I'LL GET RID OF HER.

WAH!
KYAA!
PWUMP
...THE ATTACK!
WORDS ARE MEAN-ING-LESS WHEN IT COMES TO LOVE.
WHAT'S REAL-LY IM-POR-TANT IS...
WHAT THE—
!
A-ARE YOU OKAY?
HUH? THE BOOZE IS ALL GONE.
GOGI
STOP WHINING, AND DRINK!
!
THWUP
..AND SO YOUNG YAMATO AND THE BERUTIFUL MEGUMI PRESSED THEIR BODIES TOGETHER, AND THEIR THROB-BING...
WOULD YOU SHUT UP!
THIS GIRL'S CRAZY.
YOU DRANK ALL MY DOM PERIGNON, DIDN'T YOU?

SAUNA ROOM
Rules and Regulations:
1. Do not bring food or drink into the sauna.
2. Do not stay in the sauna longer than 12 minutes...

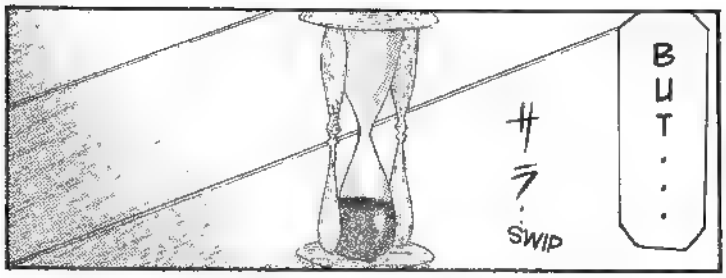

AHHHH
THIS IS THE LIFE.

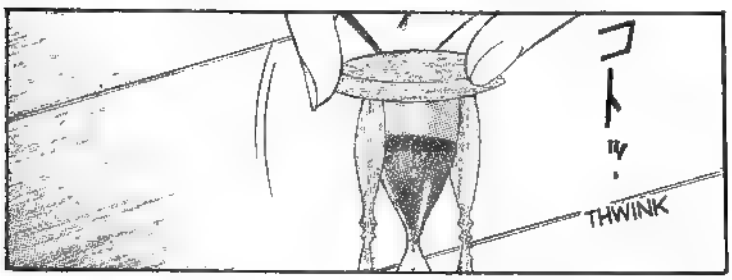
SHE MIGHT EVEN GO ON TO REPRESENT JAPAN SOME-DAY.
THEN I CAN BRAG TO EVERYBODY ABOUT HOW SHE LIVED IN MY COMPLEX.
.....
GOOD LUCK IN HIGH SCHOOL, ASAHINA-SENPAI!
WE'LL BE ROOTING FOR YOU.


I'M SO GLAD I DECIDED TO LIVE HERE.
THIS IS THE PERFECT WAY TO RELAX AFTER A HARD DAY OF PRACTICE.
AND I GET TO USE THE BATHS AS MUCH AS I WANT AT NO EXTRA CHARGE.

THE PRINCIPAL WAS VERY IMPRESSED.
YOU'RE THE PRIDE AND JOY OF THE SCHOOL.
I HEARD YOU GOT UP TO 169 CM! THAT'S A KANAGAWA HIGH JUMP RECORD.
YOU SURPRISED EVEN ME, ASAHINA.

THAT SINGLE JUMP OF MINE BROUGHT IN HIGH SCHOOL TRACK SCOUTS FROM ALL OVER...
169 CENTI-METERS...

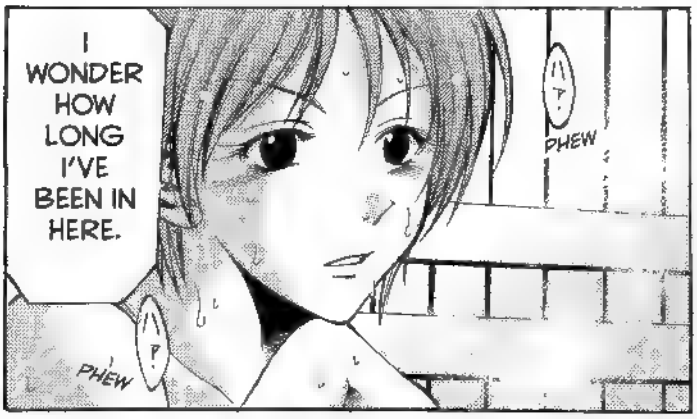

BUT...
サラ。
SWIP


コト。
THWINK

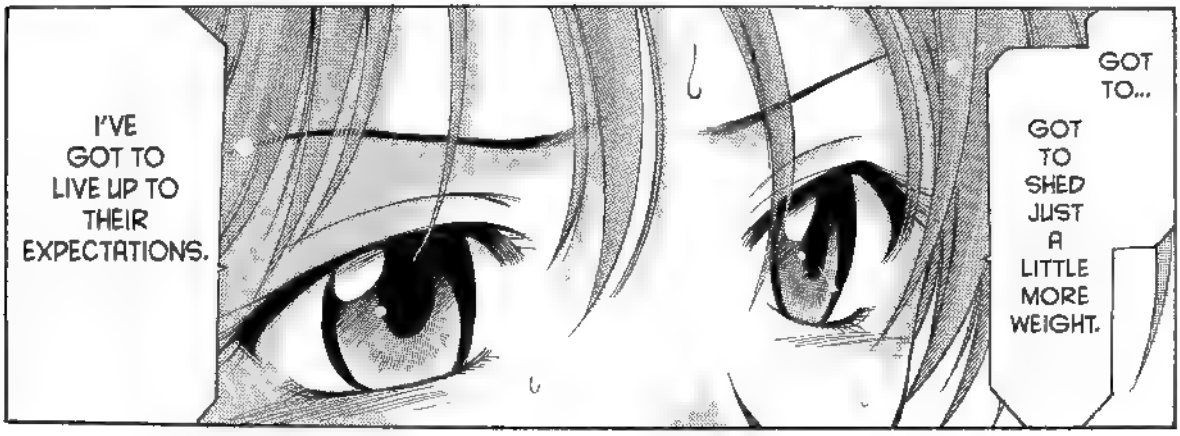
EVERYBODY HAS SUCH HIGH EXPECTATIONS FOR ME...
SO, I HAVE TO KEEP JUMPING HIGHER AND HIGHER, BUT...

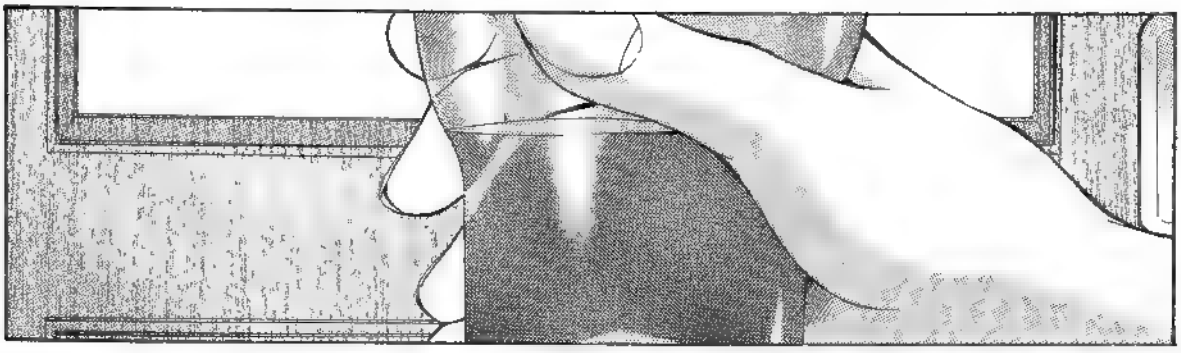
HEY! ARE YOU LISTENING, YAMATO-KUN?
THUNK
I'M LISTEN-ING.
YEAH, YEAH...
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
I HAVE A NAME YOU KNOW. I'M MEGUMI MATSU-MOTO.
THERE'S MORE TO ME THAN JUST MY BOOBS. UNDER-STAND?
EVERY SINGLE GUY WHO TRIES TO PICK ME UP IS EXACTLY THE SAME.
ZZZZ
THEY TAKE ONE LOOK AT ME AND IT'S ALL ABOUT BOOBS, BOOBS, BOOBS...
PEANUTS
SHE'S SO AN-NOY-ING.
WHAT A PATHETIC DRUNK...
OKAY, OKAY.
SLAM
LISTEN TO ME!

YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A SICK BOOBY FREAK!
YOU'RE JUST LIKE EVERY OTHER GUY AREN'T YOU, YAMATO-KUN? ALL YOU CARE ABOUT IS MY BOOBS.
SO GO AHEAD AND LOOK! GO ON!
TAKE A GOOD HARD LOOK AT 'EM!
THHPT
BOING
LOOK! LOOK! LOOK!
AHHHHH!
UH... UM, MEGU-MI...
BOING
BOING
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU LOOK-ING AT?
SLAP!
BWAHH!
THIS REAL-LY...
...SUCKS.


I WONDER HOW LONG I'VE BEEN IN HERE.
PHEW
PHEW

コト
CLINK


I'VE GOT TO LIVE UP TO THEIR EXPECTATIONS.
GOT TO...
GOT TO SHED JUST A LITTLE MORE WEIGHT.



ZZZ
ZZZ

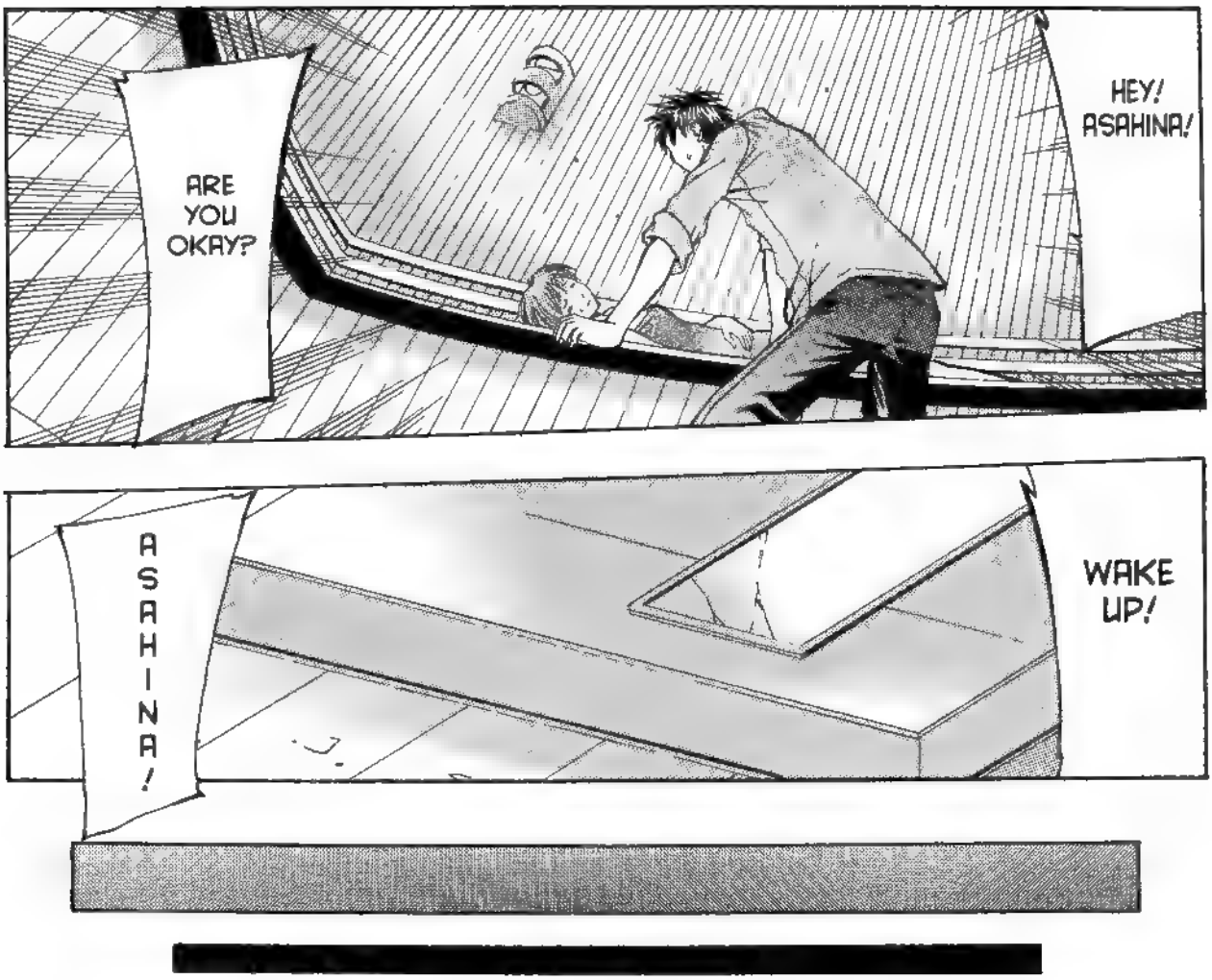
I'VE GOTTA GO CLEAN THE BATHS.
UWAH! IT'S ALREADY ELEVEN.
WHAT AM I S'POSED TO DO WITH THESE TWO.
SHE FINALLY PASSED OUT.
OH WELL, SHE ALREADY HATES ME ANYWAY.
GREAT... I BET ASAHINA HEARD ALL THAT DRUNKEN SQUABBLING.
RYANO-SAN IS GONNA BE PISSED.
UH-OH, THE LIGHTS ARE STILL ON.
HUH?
EN'S BATH
!
OH MAN, THE SAUNA IS–

A—
ASAHINA?

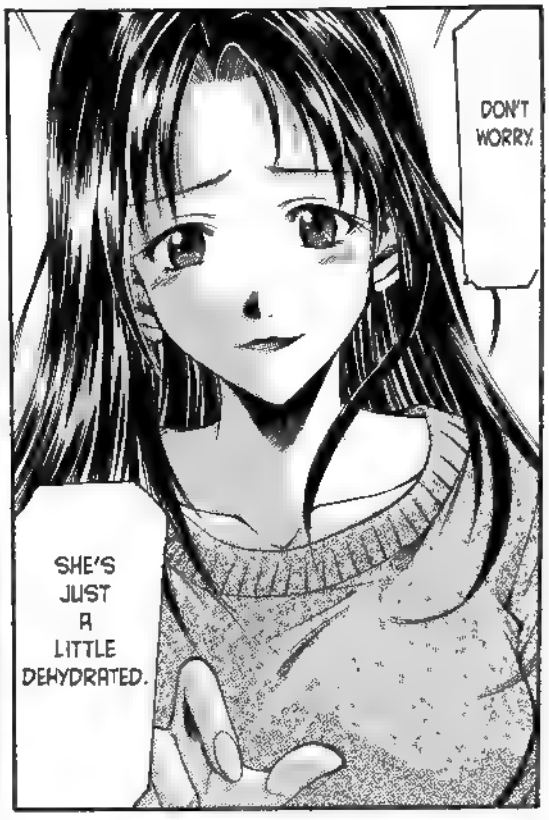
HEY! ARE YOU OKAY?
BAM
BAM
WAKE UP, ASAHINA!
WHAT'S SHE DOING IN THERE AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT...
WAIT... HOW LONG HAS SHE BEEN IN THERE?
IS SHE UNCON-SCIOUS?
ASAHINA!
HRRMPH
CLICK
CLICK
WHY'D YOU HAVE TO GO AND PUT AN INSIDE LOCK ON THE DOOR, AYANO-SAN?
I CAN'T JUST...
...LEAVE HER LIKE THIS.
FOR-GIVE ME...
CLOP
AYANO-SAN!

SCHWACK
SO HOT...
.....
SCHWOOP

ASAHINA!


HEY! ASAHINA!
ARE YOU OKAY?
WAKE UP!
ASAHINA!

I GAVE HER SOME WATER AND HER TEMPERATURE IS ALREADY STARTING TO COME BACK DOWN. SHE'LL BE FINE.
SHE WILL?


DON'T WORRY.
SHE'S JUST A LITTLE DEHYDRATED.

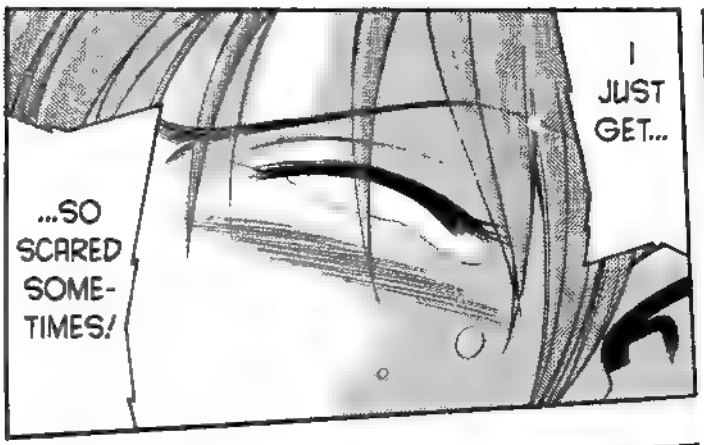
...COMING IN HERE CRYING, "ASAHINA IS DEAD."
YOU GAVE ME QUITE A SCARE...
OH... OKAY.
SHE'S JUST SLEEPING.
I GUESS I KIND OF PANICKED.
I...I DID? YEAH, WELL, SHE WOULDN'T WAKE UP.
UM...
YOU COULD'VE JUST ASKED ME FOR THE KEY.
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO BREAK THE DOOR DOWN.
I WAS WORRIED I WAS ALREADY TOO LATE.
BUT...
WHA—?
BUT I-IT WOULDN'T OPEN.
I'M THE ONE WHO'S PANICKING NOW. THE DOOR TO THE SAUNA IS COMPLETELY DESTROYED.

THAT'S WHAT I LOVE ABOUT YOU.
WELL... I GUESS YOU DO HAVE A GOOD HEART, YAMATO-KUN...
A-YA-NO-SA...
THUNK
I'LL GO STRAIGHT-EN UP THE BATHS.
GIVE HER A LITTLE MORE WATER WHEN SHE COMES TO.
.....
BYE.
SLAM
MEOW
IF I'D JUST GONE TO CLEAN THE BATHS A LITTLE SOONER...
'M SORRY.
!?
THUD
THAT'S OKAY.

WHY DID YOU BREAK THE DOOR DOWN?
WHAT'RE YOU, STUPID?
YOU- YOU'RE AWAKE?
YOU'RE SO LOUD YOU WOKE ME UP.
WHA—
WHA—
GRR
NEXT TIME, TRY READING THE RULES BEFORE YOU GO IN.
CAN'T YOU READ? IT SAYS THERE'S A TWELVE MINUTE MAX!
YOU'RE THE STUPID ONE.
WHY DO YOU THINK I BROKE THE DOOR DOWN?
I-I DID READ THEM.
WELL, NEXT TIME TRY FOLLOW-ING THEM.
SNIFF
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU... HOW COULD YOU—
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WENT INTO THE SAUNA AFTER HOURS. YOU'RE THE ONE WHO PASSED OUT IN THERE.

I KNOW!
I'M SORRY, OKAY?
HUH?
!?
SHOCK
WHA-?
I MEAN...
I JUST THOUGHT IF I LOST A LITTLE MORE WEIGHT, THEN MAYBE I COULD JUMP HIGHER NEXT TIME!
MY FRIENDS ...MY SEMPAI... MY TEACHERS... EVEN MY PARENTS...
...EVERY TIME THEY SEE ME, ALL THEY DO IS SHOUT, "GO, ASAHINA! JUMP HIGHER! HIGHER!"

NOBODY WAS MORE SHOCKED BY MY RECORD THAN I WAS!
YOU THINK IT'S EASY FOR ME TO JUMP 169 CENTI-METERS?


I JUST GET...
...SO SCARED SOME-TIMES!

ASAHINA...
.....

I SURE AS HECK DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE HIGH JUMP, BUT...
I DON'T REALLY KNOW MUCH ABOUT TRACK AND...
WELL...

I WAS SO ABSORBED IN IT THAT I DON'T EVEN REMEMBER WHAT I DID.
AND NOW, EVERYBODY HAS THESE CRAZY EXPECTA-TIONS...
...AND THEY KEEP RAISING THE BAR HIGHER AND HIGHER...

IF YOU DID IT ONCE...
I'M SURE YOU CAN DO IT AGAIN.

HUH?
EASY FOR YOU TO SAY...

WELL...
YEAH, BUT...

JUST FORGET ABOUT WHAT ALL THOSE PEOPLE THINK.
I MEAN, YOU JOINED THE TRACK TEAM BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT YOU LOVE TO DO, RIGHT?

LISTEN, WHY DON'T YOU JUST TRY HAVING A LITTLE MORE FUN...
SCRINCH
INSTEAD OF ALWAYS WALKING AROUND WITH YOUR FACE ALL SCRUNCHED UP LIKE THIS.

HEY!
WELL, SHOULD PROBABLY GO HELP AYANO-SAN.
WAH! HEY, I GUESS YOU'RE FEELING BETTER.
THWAP
I DON'T LOOK LIKE THAT!
DON'T TELL ANYBODY I CRIED...
OKAY, YAMATO-KUN?
OKAY, FINE.
.....
GEE, I DON'T KNOW... AFTER ALL THAT STUFF YOU SAID TO ME...
W-WAIT! COME ON, PROMISE YOU WON'T TELL!
OH, AND HAND ME THE WATER.
YEAH, YEAH.
I THOUGHT SHE WAS HARD TO GET ALONG WITH, BUT...
GET ME A NEW TOWEL TOO!
ASAHIYU BATHS
MAYBE SHE'S JUST GOING THROUGH A DIFFICULT TIME.
DON'T PUSH YOUR LUCK!

I THINK I'M...
...STARTING TO FIGURE ASAHINA OUT.

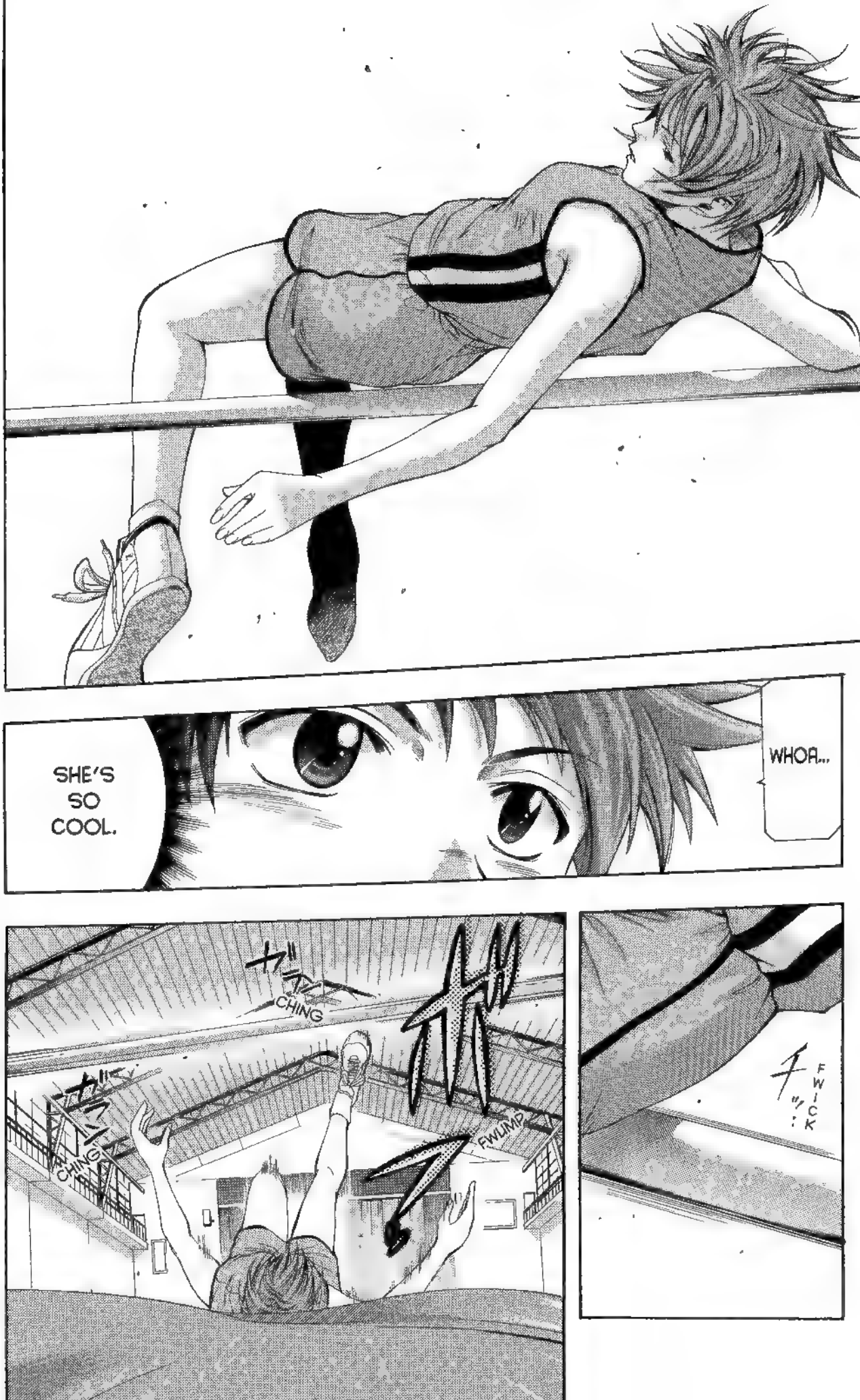
I'M SO SLEEPY, ASAHINA.
AAWWWWW

SO WHY DON'T YOU TAKE RE-SPON-SIBILITY FOR WHAT YOU SAID...
AND START BEING A LITTLE MORE SUPPORTIVE!

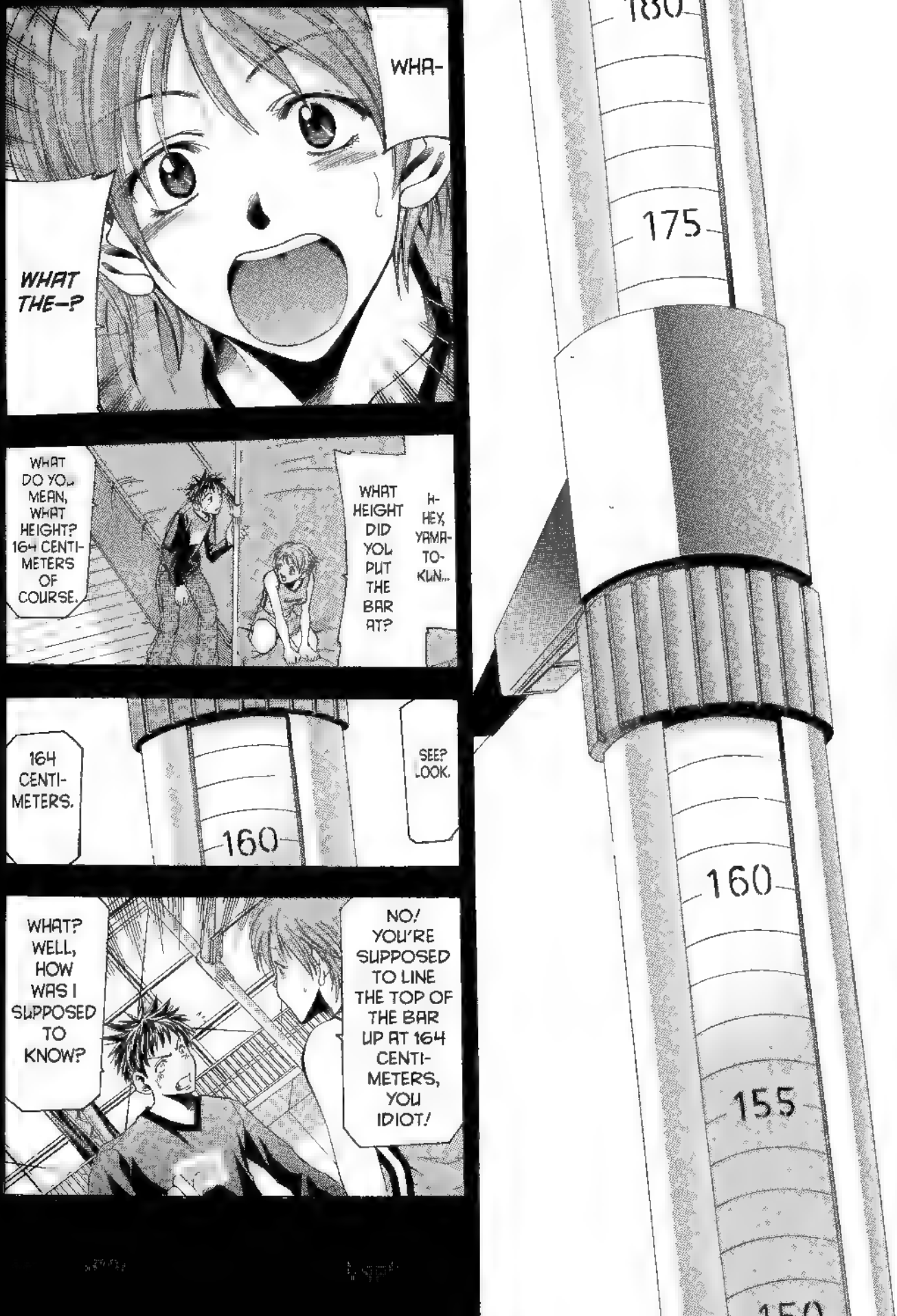
DON'T SEE WHY YOU NEED ME TO COME WITH YOU TO MORN-ING PRAC TICE.
ESPE CIALLY D..RING SPR NG BREAK ...
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID I COULD DO IT AGAIN.

YEAH, YEAH.
CLINK
WHY SHOULD I HAVE TO TAKE RESPON-SIBILITY FOR ANY-THING?

S-SORRY... HOW MANY CENTI-METERS DID YOU SAY?
IT'S THE FIRST JUMP OF THE DAY, SO LET'S START OUT WITH 164 CENTI-METERS.
AH...
MISHI
KACHINK
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING?
HEY, IT'S CROOKED!
OUI, MA-DAME.
IT'S PRETTY HIGH!
THERE. GO AHEAD AND JUMP, IF YOU THINK YOU CAN MAKE IT!
165
DON'T GET SLOPPY!
CLICK
CLICK
YOU'RE SO PICKY!
WHOOSH
THIS IS NO-THING...
DON'T UN-DER-ESTI-MATE ME.
HERE I GO...
STEP


WHOA...
SHE'S SO COOL.
CHING
CHING
CHING
FWLUMP
FWICK

I'VE NEVER HAD A PROBLEM CLEARING THAT HEIGHT.
CAN'T BE- L EVE IT...
HEY, YOU HIT THE POLE.
YOU BARELY MADE IT OVER.
I'VE NEVER HAD A DAY LIKE THIS.
YOU KNOW?
UH... WELL... SOME DAYS ARE LIKE THAT.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO MAKE EXCUSES FOR ME.
JUST STOP IT, OKAY.
WELL... MAYBE YOU'RE A LITTLE T RED FROM YESTERDAY.
UH... OH...
I MEAN I...
WHAT AM I GONNA DO? HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO MAKE 169 CENTI METERS WHEN I CAN BARE..Y MAKE T OVER 164.


WHA-
WHAT THE-?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, WHAT HEIGHT? 164 CENTI-METERS OF COURSE.
WHAT HEIGHT DID YOU PUT THE BAR AT?
H-HEY, YAMA-TO-KUN...
164 CENTI-METERS.
160
SEE? LOOK.
WHAT? WELL, HOW WAS I SUPPOSED TO KNOW?
NO! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO LINE THE TOP OF THE BAR UP AT 164 CENTI-METERS, YOU IDIOT!
180
175
160
155
150

NOW WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?
YOU REALLY ARE CLUELESS!
HUH?
173 CENTI-METERS... ON THAT DAY... ALTHOUGH IT WAS UNOFFICIAL...
B—
BECAUSE OF YOU, I...
HER JUMP TIED THE TWELFTH PLACE NATIONAL RECORD FOR THE HIGHEST JUMP OF ANY FEMALE JUNIOR HIGH STUDENT IN HISTORY.
175
I SET A NEW RECORD WITHOUT EVEN KNOWING IT!
AT THAT MOMENT, ASAHINA SEEMED LIKE A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON.
...BUT MORE IMPORTANT...

AND SHE LOOKED CUTER THAN...
..ANY GIRL I'D EVER SEEN IN MY ENTIRE LIFE.

*APPROXIMATELY $1500

THAT'S HOW MUCH IT COST TO FIX THE HOLE IN YOUR ROOM AND THE DOOR TO THE SAUNA.
I PAID THE BILL, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO PAY ME BACK BY WORKING FOR FREE FOR THE NEXT THREE MONTHS.

HUH... WHERE ARE WE?
SAOTOME-SAN, MY HEAD HURTS...
AH, YAMATO-KUN.
WE JUST HAD THAT FIXED.
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU GUYS DOING?
H-HEY... STOP MAKING STUFF UP!
MAKING STUFF UP?
LAST NIGHT WAS AMAZING.
HOW... HOW DID YOU KNOW—
WHAT?
YOU D D SEE MEGUMI-CHAN'S BARE BREASTS, D DN'T YOU? YOU BOOBY FREAK!
WHAT A PLAYBOY YOU ARE... TWO GIRLS AT THE SAME TIME!

I SEE YOU'RE CLUELESS WHEN IT COMES TO GIRLS TOO.
HMM...
UM...
I HATE YOU, YAMATO-KUN!
N-NO!
I'M STARTING TO GET THAT FEELING THAT...
THAT'LL BE 100,000 YEN FOR OUR ALL-NIGHT ESCORT SERVICES.
NO WAY!
...MY NEW LIFE ISN'T GONNA BE SO EASY.

HEY, BUDDY. YOU'D BETTER WRITE SOMETHING FUNNY!
HE LOOKS LIKE THIS.
THE CHARACTER HATTORI IS BASED ON AN OLD FRIEND OF MINE WHOM I'VE KNOWN FOR 19 YEARS. HIS NAME IS "YASUNOBU-KUN."

SUZUKA FOUR-PANEL THEATER NUMBER ONE

BAD COMPANY

SORRY, I'VE GOT TONS OF WORK TO DO.
HELLO, SEO? WANNA GO PLAY SOME SLOTS?
WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER SO LONG THAT WE CAN READ EACH OTHER LIKE A BOOK.

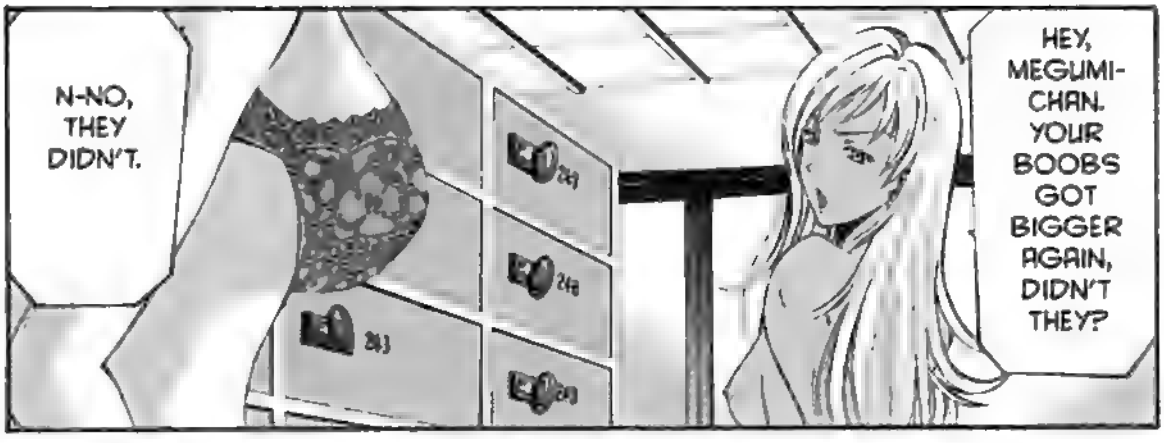
IF I COULD JUST GO TO HIGH SCHOOL IN TOKYO...
...THEN I COULD START OVER FROM SCRATCH. I BET MY LIFE WOULD BE TOTALLY DIFFERENT.
SHWIP
MOST PEOPLE COME HERE WITH RIDICULOUS EXPECTATIONS LIKE THAT...
...BUT THE TRUTH IS, IT'S REALLY NOT THAT DRAMATIC.
I GUESS I'M NO DIFFERENT THAN ANYONE ELSE.
SIGH.
I'M STAYING WITH MY AUNT IN EXCHANGE FOR HELPING OUT AROUND HER PLACE.
IT NEVER ENDS.
I'M JUST YOUR AVERAGE FIFTEEN YEAR OLD... LIVING IN YOUR AVERAGE APARTMENT... THE ONLY THING DIFFERENT IS...

Suzuka

#1
Yamato

IT'S AN ALL-GIRLS APARTMENT COMPLEX!
旭湯
ASAHIYU BATHS

カポ
ン
SPLASH


N-NO, THEY DIDN'T.
HEY, MEGUMI-CHAN. YOUR BOOBS GOT BIGGER AGAIN, DIDN'T THEY?

KYA!
YEAH, THEY DID. YOU MUST'VE LET SOMEONE SQUEEZE THEM.

THESE TWO ARE STUDENTS AT A LOCAL UNIVERSITY THE TAN ONE IS YUUKA SAOTOME (AGE 20).
TO HER, EVERY MAN IS A WALKING DOLLAR BILL.
AND THE ONE IN THE GLASSES IS MEGUMI MATSUMOTO (AGE 20). SHE'S A PRETTY NORMAL GIRL. BUT WHEN SHE DRINKS SHE TURNS INTO A MONSTER.

LET ME SQUEEZE THOSE BOOBS!
NO, STOP IT, SAOTOME SAN!
GOWN RUMBLE
GOWN RUMBLE
GEEZ. CAN'T THEY KEEP IT DOWN?

AH... OH, NO... IT'S OUT OF FUEL!
I TOTALLY FORGOT!
HUH?
ピーッ
BEEP
ピーッ
BEEP
YAMATO-KUN!
SO? HOW'S THE BOILER RUNING?
BEEP
HEH... WELL, I THINK IT'S KINDA OUT OF FUEL.
BEEP
MIHO-CHAN!
Angry Bunny
I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE, SO I BROUGHT YOU SOME.
WOW! YOU'RE SO AWESOME, MIHO-CHAN!

THIS IS MIHO FUJIKAWA (AGE 13). SHE'S THE LANDLADY'S DAUGHTER AND SHE'S ALSO MY COUSIN.
YOU ARE SO CLUELESS. TRY CHECKING THE FUEL LEVEL NEXT TIME!
I WAS JUST ABOUT TO.
SHE'S ALWAYS REALLY NICE TO ME, BUT SHE CAN BE A LITTLE PRECOCIOUS.
HEY!
CLICK
CLICK
WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON? THERE'S NO HOT WATER!
Y-YUUKA-SAN!
HEY!
GET OUT OF HERE, YOU PERVERT
OH M- YAMATO-KUN

WAH!
WAH!
WAH!
?!

A-ASA... THINA-THAN!
YOU NEVER GET ENOUGH...
...DO YOU?
BRRR
ブル SHIVER
N... NO! LISTEN! IT'S NOT—
WHAT-EVER.

IS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE ME? TCH, WHAT-EVER...
HELP ME! HELP ME! BOO HOO HOO
WAH! OH, NO! MY GIRLFRIEND SUZUKA-CHAN HATES ME NOW. WHAT AM I GONNA DO?

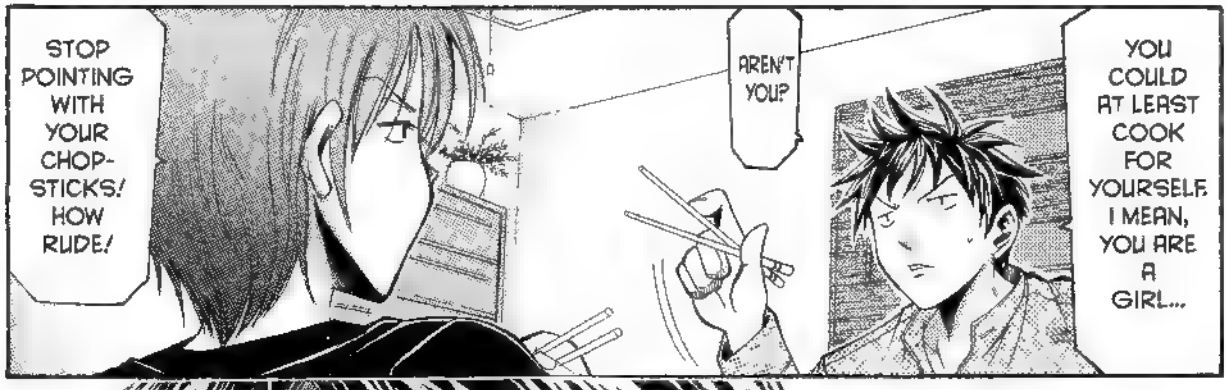
SHE'S ON A TRACK SCHOLARSHIP AND SHE SET THE SCHOOL'S (UNOFFICIAL) HIGH JUMP RECORD 173 CENTIMETERS.

SHE'S THE PERFECT GIRL, AND SHE CAN'T STAND CLUELESS GUYS LIKE ME. WE'RE EXACT OPPOSITES.

SHE'S ALWAYS GRUMPY AND SHE ALMOST NEVER LAUGHS.

I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO IDEA WHAT THE HECK SHE'S THINKING.
ASAHIYU BATHS
YOU SURE ARE A GOOD COOK, AYANO-SAN.
I NEVER IMAGINED I'D GET TO EAT LIKE THIS... AND IT'S FREE TO BOOT.
YOU'RE HOLDING YOUR CHOP-STICKS WRONG, YAMATO-KUN.
GOBBLE
GOBBLE
YOU'VE GOT RICE ALL OVER YOUR FACE, SILLY.
HA HA.
SEE? YOU'RE SUCH A LITTLE BABY.
THANKS... IT'S SO NICE OF YOU TO FIX DINNER FOR ME.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT... YOU TWO ARE GONNA BE SO BUSY WITH SCHOOL YOU WON'T HAVE TIME TO COOK.
ESPECIALLY YAMATO-KUN. THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT HE'D BE PUTTING INTO THAT MOUTH OF HIS IF I DIDN'T FEED HIM.
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THAT.
WHAT AM I, A DOG?
PRET-TY MUCH.


YOU COULD AT LEAST COOK FOR YOURSELF. I MEAN, YOU ARE A GIRL...
AREN'T YOU?
STOP POINTING WITH YOUR CHOP-STICKS! HOW RUDE!

WOULD YOU TWO STOP FIGHTING AND EAT ALREADY!
HMMPH
BUT SHE'S THE ONE WHO—
HERE'S A BONE FOR YOU, GORO-CHAN.
HERE YOU GO.
MEOW
THAT REMINDS ME, YOU TWO START SCHOOL TOMORROW DON'T YOU?
I ALMOST FORGOT. WE'D BETTER CELEBRATE.
...CELE-BRATE?

YEAH. LET'S THROW A PARTY TO WELCOME BOTH OF YOU HERE AND TO CELEBRATE THE START OF THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR.
I'LL COOK UP SOMETHING REALLY SPECIAL FOR YOU.
REALLY?
ALL RIGHT!
YOU-YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO TO ALL THAT TROUBLE.
IT'S NOTHING, REALLY. I DID THE SAME THING WHEN SAOTOME-SAN AND MATSUMOTO-SAN MOVED IN.
THE ONLY THING IS...
I'VE GOT A REALLY BUSY DAY TOMORROW.
I HATE TO ASK, BUT... YOU TWO WOULDN'T MIND...
...GOING SHOPPING FOR ME, WOULD YOU?

WE'LL NEED A LOT OF STUFF AND I'M JUST NOT SURE THAT YAMATO-KUN CAN HANDLE IT ON HIS OWN.
.....
HE CAN'T REMEMBER A THING.
I WANNA GO TOO!
WHY SHOULD I HAVE TO GO WITH HER?
THE...
...TWO OF US?
YOU'VE GOT SCHOOL TOMOR-ROW, MIHO.
SO...
I WANT YOU TWO...
...TO GO TOGETHER!
SHOP-PING? WITH HER?
SHOPPING? ...WITH HIM?

THE NEXT DAY
旭湯
ピンポーン
BING BONG
WHAT'S TAKING HIM SO LONG...
GEEZ!
HURRY UP, YAMATO-KUN.
YOU-YOU'RE STILL SLEEPING!
WE WERE SUPPOSED TO LEAVE AT ELEVEN.
SCRATCH
ポリ
ポリ
SCRATCH
UHMM... MORNING.
カチャ
CLICK

MMM...
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
STOP THAT!
AT LEAST PUT SOME PANTS ON.
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL? THEY'RE JUST SWIM TRUNKS.
I SAID...
...PUT SOME PANTS ON! IDIOT!
OKAY...
ぴょ～ん
BOOOING
!
NOT IN FRONT OF ME!
AAHHH!
SMACK

YOU WERE SO LOUD MY EARS GOT ALL SWOLLEN...
BYONG

GEEZ...
DON'T YELL AT ME LIKE THAT SO EARLY IN THE MORNING..

OKAY, OKAY. I'LL SHUT UP.
GLARE
.....

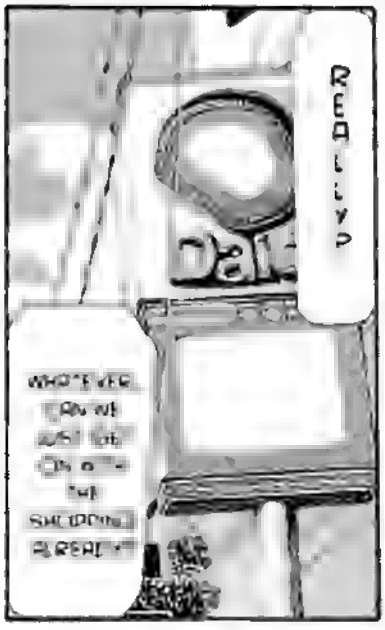
HUSTLE

BUSTLE

YOU'D BETTER LEAD THE WAY! I DON'T KNOW THIS TOWN VERY WELL YET.
OKAY, BUT... AREN'T YOU COLD, ASAHINA? YOUR SHOULDERS ARE TOTALLY STICKING OUT.
I'M FINE.

YEAH?
HMMM... THIS PLACE HASN'T CHANGED AT ALL

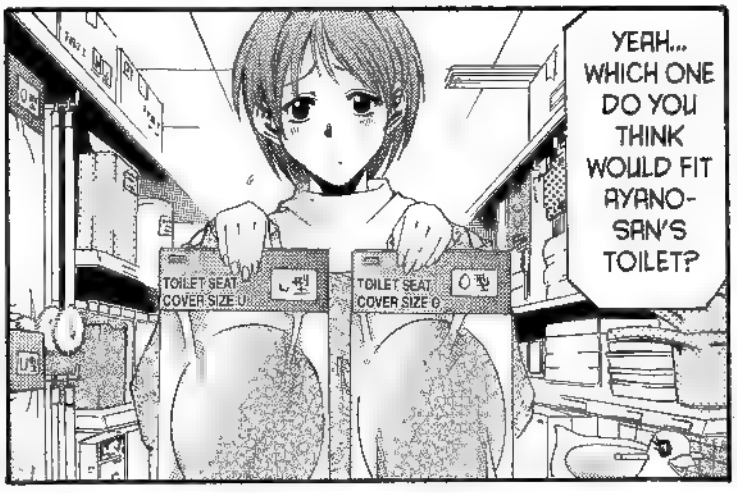
IT'S PRETTY COOL ISN'T IT? IT'S GOT THAT "OLD TOKYO" FEELING

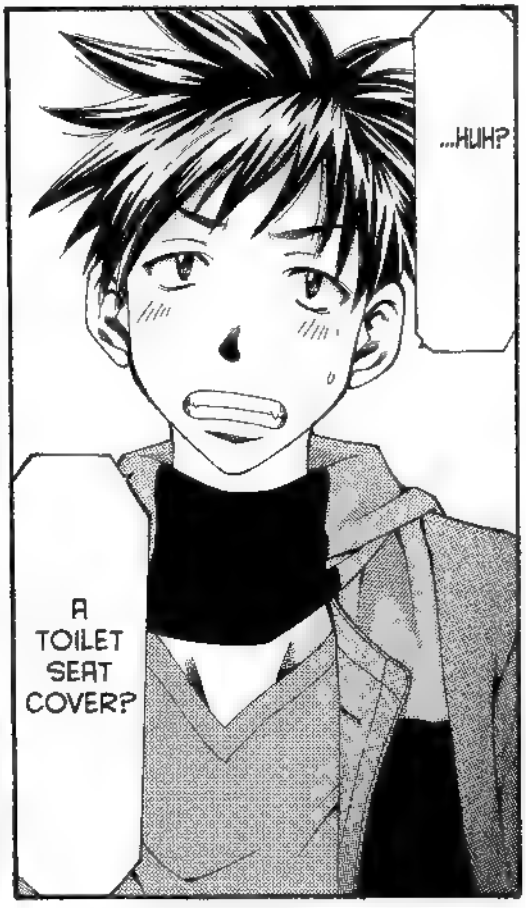

WHATEVER. I'M JUST GOING TO GO SHOPPING ALREADY!
SHUDDER

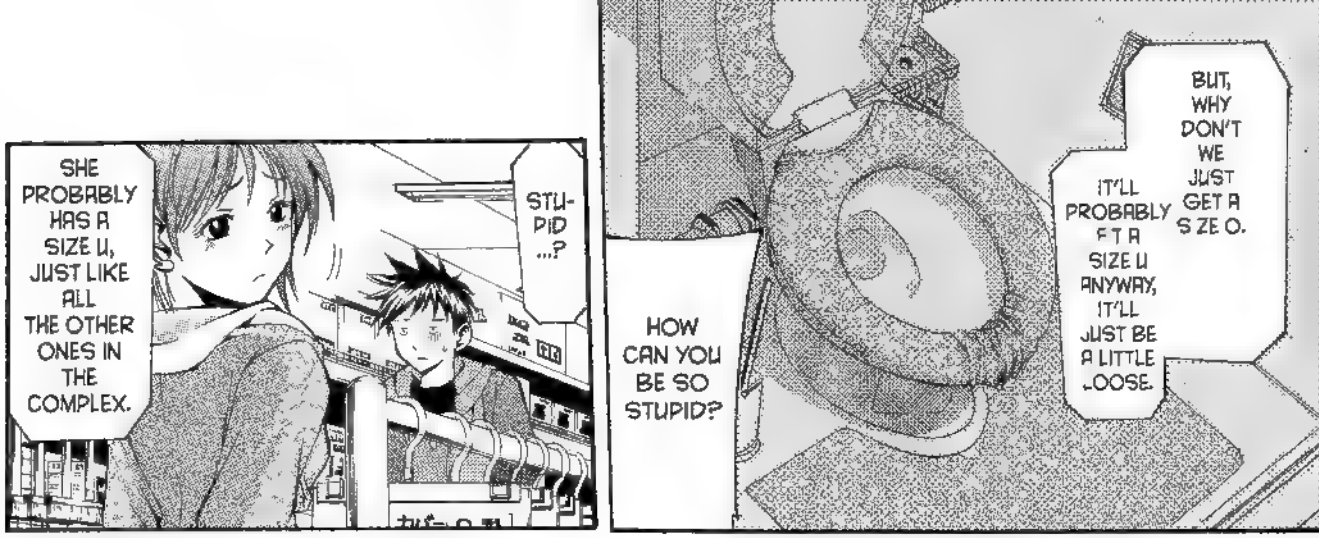
THERE'RE SO MANY PEOPLE RUNNING AROUND EVERY-WHERE...
THIS CITY IS WAY TOO CROWDED FOR ME

SHE WANTED US TO GET SOME STUFF FOR THE HOUSE TOO.
SWIM
LET'S DO THAT FIRST.
H-HEY, WAIT!
TCHH. ONE MINUTE SHE'S GRUMPY AND THE NEXT MINUTE SHE'S ALL EX-CITED...
WHOA!

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS






BUT, WHY DON'T WE JUST GET A SIZE O.
IT'LL PROBABLY FIT A SIZE U ANYWAY, IT'LL JUST BE A LITTLE LOOSE.
HOW CAN YOU BE SO STUPID?
STU-PID ...?
SHE PROBABLY HAS A SIZE U, JUST LIKE ALL THE OTHER ONES IN THE COMPLEX.

OKAY, WELL, WE'VE GOT THAT ONE DOWN. WHAT'S NEXT?
LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH.
HANG ON!
WE CAN'T GET THAT ONE. IT'S TOO UGLY.

YOU ARE SO CLUELESS. WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?
POOR GUY.
GIGGLE
OH DEAR
GIGGLE
I DON'T SEE WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS ONE. BESIDES, IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'RE GONNA BE USING IT.
NO WAY!
I CAN'T COME HOME WITH THAT THING! WHAT'S THAT GONNA SAY ABOUT MY SENSE OF STYLE?
HUH?

SHOPPING WITH A GIRL IS SUCH A PAIN IN THE BUTT.
UH... O... OKAY.

'CAUSE SHE'S SO PERFECT AND SHE CAN'T STAND CLUELESS GUYS LIKE ME.
HOUSEHOLD IT
ESPECIALLY HER.

UH... YEAH... THAT ONE LOOKS GOOD.
FWIP
THIS ONE!

GOD, ALL THAT OVER A TOILET SEAT... AND WE STILL HAVE TONS LEFT ON THE LIST.
HOW ABOUT...

THAT'S IT! FOR-GET THIS ONE.
GEEZ, I HOPE WE MAKE IT BACK IN TIME FOR DINNER.

THAT DIDN'T SOUND VERY CON-VINC-ING...

SHUT UP! I JUST WANT TO GET THE MOST FOR MY MONEY, THAT'S ALL.
THAT'S WHAT YOU ARE!
ズン
HEAVY
YOU KNOW WHAT? YOU'RE NOT PERFECT ...YOU'RE JUST INDECI-SIVE.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT IT TOOK US THREE WHOLE HOURS OF RUNNING ALL AROUND TOWN JUST TO GET EVERYTHING ON THE LIST.

THIS CITY ISN'T AS BAD AS YOU THINK!
WHAT DO YOU CARE WHAT I THINK ABOUT THIS PLACE?

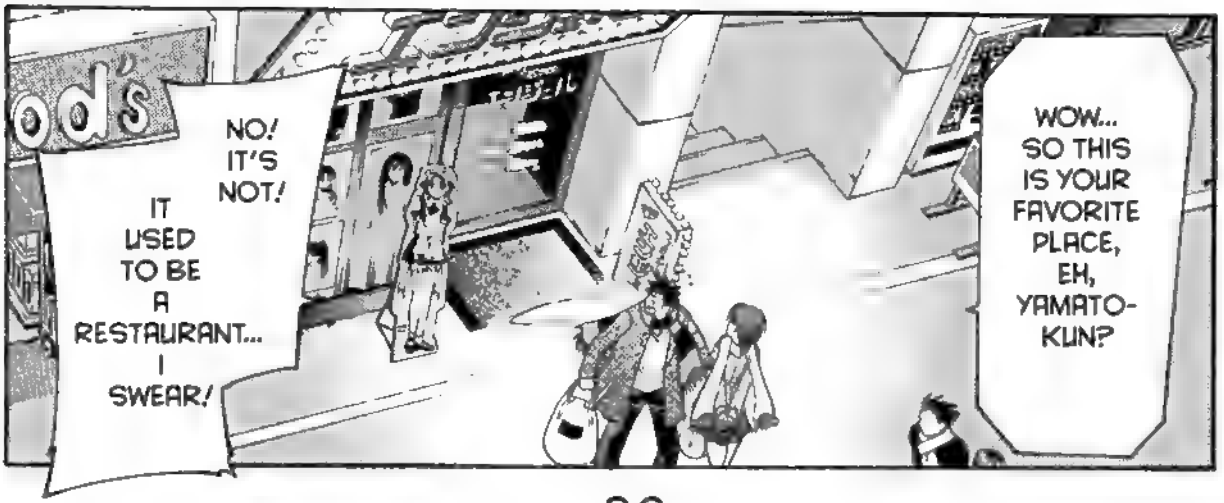
LET'S JUST GO HOME.
IF I STAY OUT HERE ANY LONGER, I'M GONNA SUFFO-CATE.

ALL RIGHT, LISTEN!
4
GRR

HEY! LET'S GO GET SOME LUNCH! I KNOW THIS GREAT LITTLE PLACE.
ONCE YOU EAT THERE, EVEN YOU'LL START TO LIKE THIS CITY!
.....
WELCOME
APARTMENTS
MENTS
APARTMENTS
JUST SHUT UP AND FOLLOW ME. WE'RE ALMOST THERE.
AND THE STREETS ARE SO CLUT-TERED... I'VE HAD IT!
IT STINKS OUT HERE!
WHY ARE WE GOING THROUGH HERE?
I TOLD YOU. IT'S A SHORT-CUT!
THIS IS MY FAVORITE PLACE...
HERE IT IS!

FASHION MASSAGE
PINK ANGEL
60 MINUTES-
18,000 YEN
80 MINUTES-
23,000 YEN
100 MINUTES-
28,000 YEN
FASHION MASSAGE
PINK ANGEL
60 MINUTES-
18,000 YEN
80 MINUTES-
23,000 YEN
100 MINUTES-
28,000 YEN

.....
PINK ANGEL?
FASHION MASSAGE...


NO! IT'S NOT!
IT USED TO BE A RESTAURANT... I SWEAR!
WOW... SO THIS IS YOUR FAVORITE PLACE, EH, YAMATO-KUN?

WHAT'S WRONG?
HUH?
HUH?
IT'S NOT ME!
THERE'S A GIRL NAMED "SUZUKA," BUT...
IT-IT COULDN'T BE—
I HATE THIS CITY!
I'M GOING HOME!
BEST SELLER
REALLY? ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE NOT TRYING TO MAKE A LITTLE MONEY ON THE SIDE?
YOU'RE SUCH AN IDIOT!
SUZUKA
NO!
HEY... WAIT! THERE'S ONE MORE PLACE I--

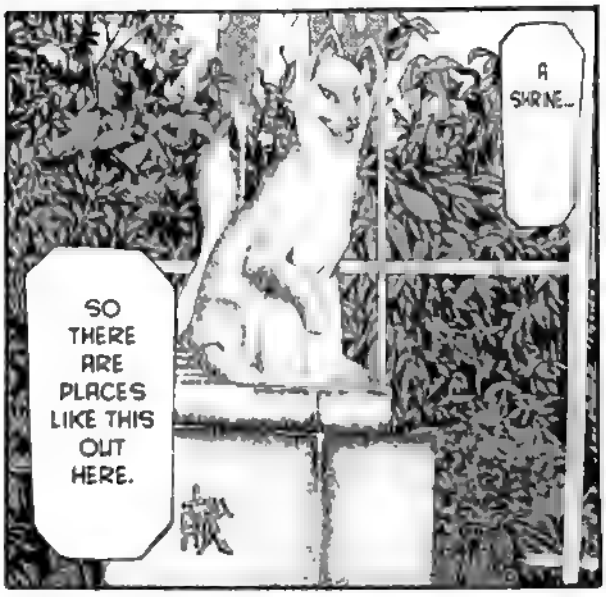
STAY AWAY FROM ME!
I SAID WAIT!
HAHH
HAHH
SHUT UP!
REALLY, YOU'LL LOVE THIS PLACE!
WHOOSH
HEY, ASA-HINA!
NO CARS ALLOWED
12:00-3:00 PM
FWICKA

NO CARS
12:00-

WHOA...
!!
WAH!
SMACK
OH, BRO-THER...
UNSUN

YOU'RE SUCH A KLUTZ, YAMATO-KUN...AND YOU'RE ALL TALK.
. . .
I MEAN, IF THESE PLACES WERE SO GOOD, THEN WHY DID THEY ALL CLOSE DOWN?
. . .
YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING MORE ABOUT THIS CITY THAN I DO!
YOU DRAG ME AROUNDTO ALL THESE PLACES, AND EVERY SINGLE ONE HAS GONE OUT OF BUSINESS...
W-WAIT! WHERE ARE YOU GOING, YAMATO-KUN?
FWOOSH
THAT'S RIGHT! THERE'S ONE MORE SPOT!
JUST WAIT HERE!
AH!
SHOCK
I'LL BE BACK IN A SECOND!
FORGET IT. LET'S GO HOME!

HYUU

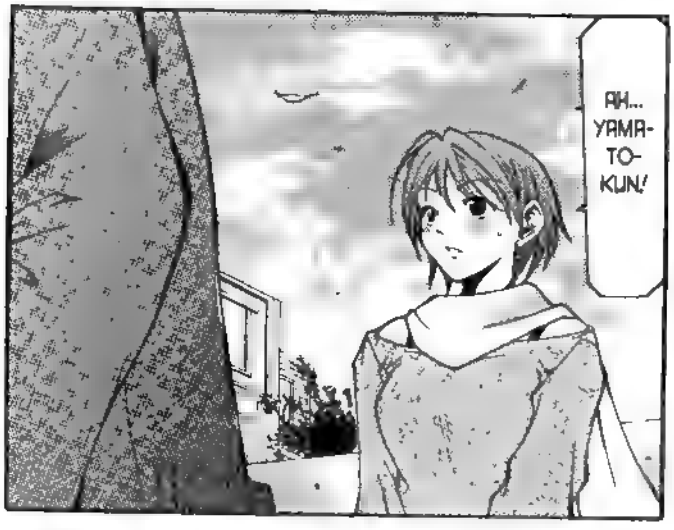

A SHRINE...
SO THERE ARE PLACES LIKE THIS OUT HERE.

.....
FWAH

SHUSSE INARI SHRINE

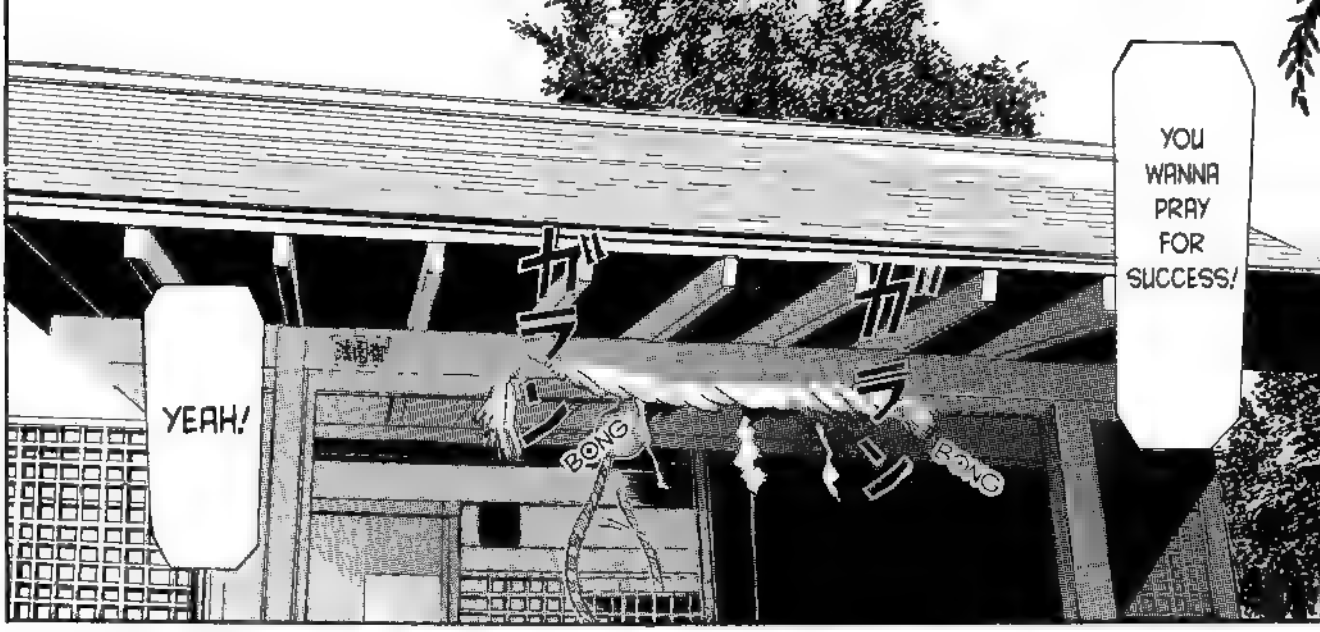
I CAN SMELL THE TREES.
HYUU
HYUU
IT'S SO...
...NICE AND QUIET HERE.

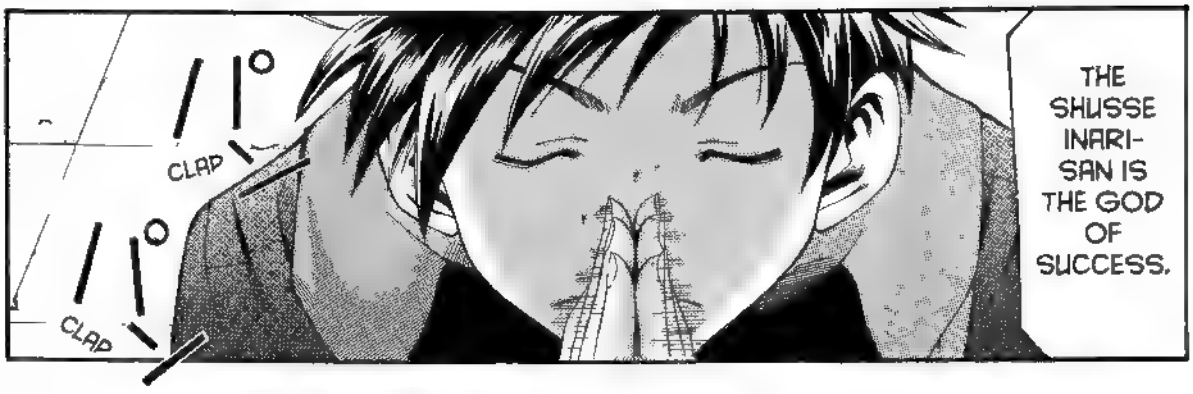
SORRY I TOOK SO LONG!


AH... YAMA-TO-KUN!

WHERE WERE YOU, YAMATO-KUN?
NEVER MIND WHERE I WAS! LET'S CLIMB UP THESE STAIRS!

OH, BRO-THER...


YOU WANNA PRAY FOR SUCCESS!
YEAH!
ガラ
ガラ
BONG
BONG

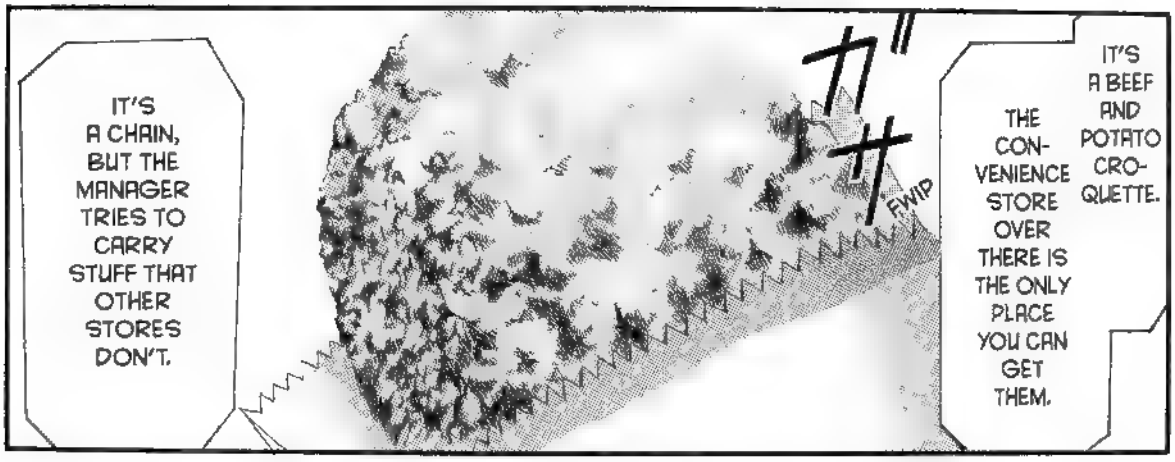

THE SHUSSE INARI-SAN IS THE GOD OF SUCCESS.
CLAP
CLAP

THE INARI-SAN WILL COME AFTER YOU!
DON'T SAY THAT! YOU'LL ANGER THE GODS!

PRAY FOR SUCCESS? DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE IN THAT STUFF?
WHY DON'T YOU PRAY, ASAHINA?
MAYBE YOU'LL SUCCEED AT TRACK, AND SET A NEW RECORD.

DID WE COME ALL THE WAY HERE JUST TO PRAY?
YOU'RE SO RELI-GIOUS.

W-
WHAT'S
THAT?
YEAH,
BUT
THAT'S
NOT
ALL.
HERE.

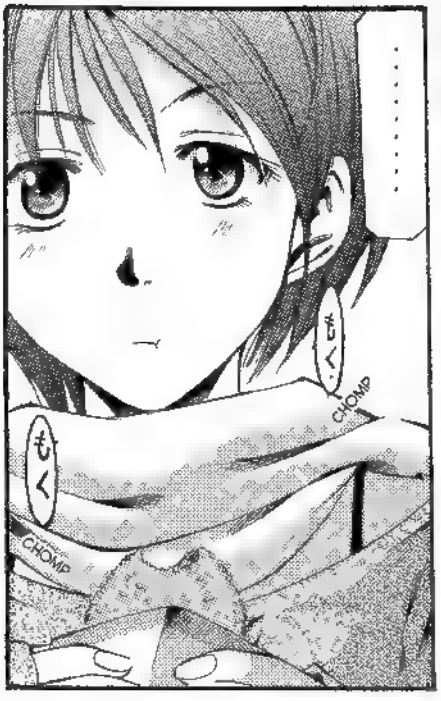

IT'S
A CHAIN,
BUT THE
MANAGER
TRIES TO
CARRY
STUFF THAT
OTHER
STORES
DON'T.
FWIP
THE
CON-
VENIENCE
STORE
OVER
THERE IS
THE ONLY
PLACE
YOU CAN
GET
THEM.
IT'S
A BEEF
AND
POTATO
CRO-
QUETTE.

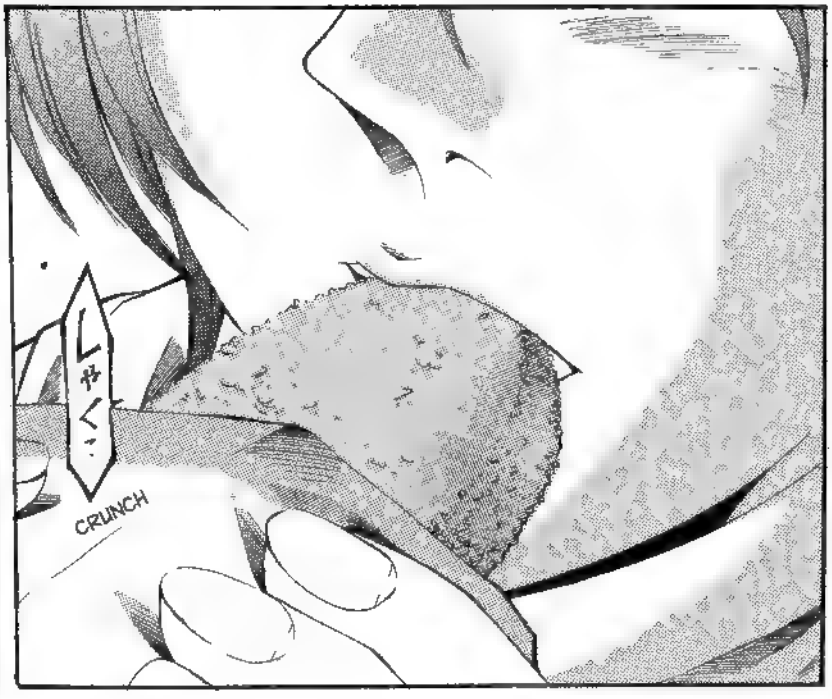
YOU'RE
THE
ONE
WHO'S
GONNA
ANGER
THE
GODS.
WHATEVER...
JUST
TRY IT.
IT'S
REALLY
GOOD.
I USED
TO GET
ONE OF
THESE
AND EAT IT
AT THIS
SHRINE
EVERY
TIME I
CAME TO
VISIT
AYANO-
SAN.

サワ
HYUU
サワ
HYUU

UH... OKAY.
HURRY UP AND EAT IT! IT'S GETTING COLD.

I WONDER IF IT'S ANY GOOD.
くん くん
SNIFF
SNIFF
.....


.....
もぐ
CHOMP
もぐ
CHOMP


しゃく
CRUNCH

AH...
IT'S REALLY GOOD.
I KNOW!
THEY'RE ADDICTIVE!
N- NO...
I DON'T THINK IT'S JUST THE CROQUETTE...
THE AT-MO-SPHERE!
HYUU
HYUU
THE ATMO-SPHERE MAKES IT TASTE GOOD!
HA, HA... MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT.
YEAH, I GUESS THIS IS THE PERFECT PLACE TO ENJOY THEM!
HUH? OH...
SO, YAMATO-KUN... WHAT DID YOU PRAY FOR BACK THERE?

I JUST PRAYED THAT SOMETHING GOOD WOULD HAPPEN.

KIND OF VAGUE, ISN'T IT?
HUH?

YOU'RE GONNA PISS OFF THE GOD OF SUCCESS.
YOU'RE SO CLUE-LESS.

SHUT UP.
NOT EVERYBODY IN THIS WORLD HAS THEIR WHOLE LIFE FIGURED OUT LIKE YOU DO, ASAHINA.

YEAH! I LIVED WAY OUT IN THE MOUNTAINS.
YOU'RE FROM HIROSHIMA RIGHT, YAMATO-KUN?

WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?
SO WHY DID YOU COME ALL THE WAY TO TOKYO JUST TO GO TO SCHOOL?

HOW SHOULD I SAY THIS...
UMMM... I GUESS...

SO I FIGURED, IF I REALLY WANT TO CHANGE MY LIFE...
...THEN TOKYO IS THE PLACE TO BE!

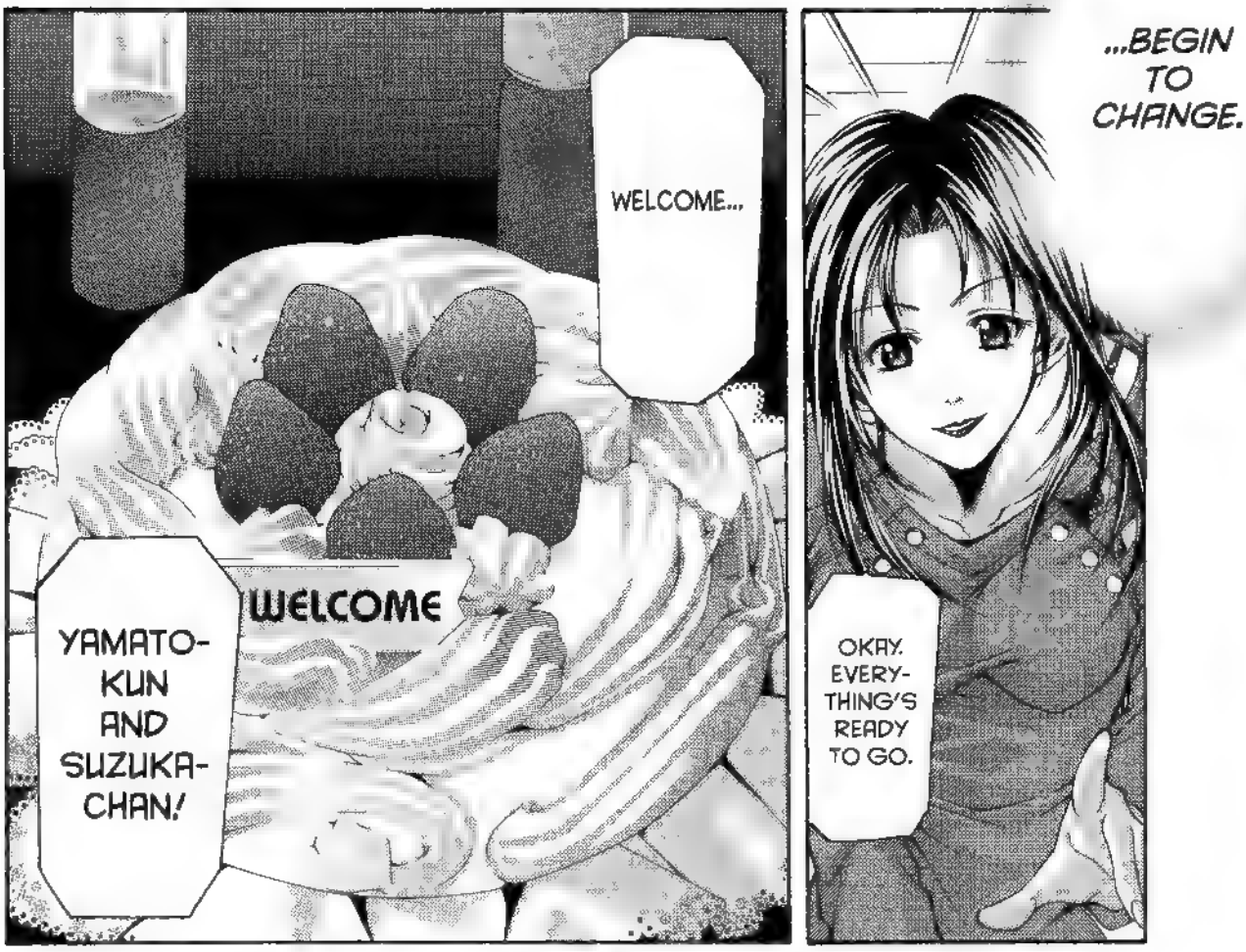
I GUESS I THOUGHT THAT IF I WENT TO A NEW SCHOOL IN A NEW CITY...
...AND LIVED IN A NEW ENVIRON-MENT... THEN MAYBE MY LIFE WOULD CHANGE.
HMM...

I JUST WANTED TO HANG OUT WITH MY OLD FRIENDS AT MY OLD SCHOOL...
...AND JUST KEEP DOING TRACK LIKE I ALWAYS HAD.
BUT THEN THE SCOUTS CAME, AND EVERYBODY STARTED SAYING, "YOU BELONG AT A FAMOUS SCHOOL. GO FOR IT, ASAHINA!"
...I...
...DIDN'T WANT TO CHANGE ANY-THING.
WHAT?
THE TRUTH IS...I DIDN'T EVEN WANNA COME HERE.
.....
IT'S SO CROWDED AND CLAUSTRO-PHOBIC HERE...
AND MY NEIGHBOR IS SUCH A WEIRDO.
.....
BUT THEN AGAIN, I GUESS THAT WEIRD NEIGHBOR OF MINE...
PAT
PAT
...DID HELP ME SET A NEW HIGH JUMP REC-ORD...
...AND HE TOOK ME TO A REALLY NICE SPOT TOO.
HUH?

MAYBE I AM...
...STARTING TO FALL IN LOVE...
WHAT?
IN LOVE!?

I MEANT WITH THE CITY.
ガッ
SHOCK
OH... HEH... YEAH... THE CITY...
MAY-BE...
WELL, I GUESS I SHOULD THANK YOU, YAMATO-KUN.
UH... REAL-LY?
THINGS NEVER REALLY CHANGE ALL AT ONCE.
YOU'RE WEL-COME.
BUT...
WE'D BETTER HEAD HOME...
...BEFORE AYANO-SAN GETS MAD!
THE MOMENT I SAW ASAHINA'S SMILE...

I FELT...
...SOMETHING INSIDE ME...


...BEGIN TO CHANGE.
OKAY. EVERY-THING'S READY TO GO.
WELCOME...
WELCOME
YAMATO-KUN AND SUZUKA-CHAN!

THANK YOU.
THIS KIND OF STUFF ALWAYS EMBARRASSES ME.
SH-SHUT UP! STOP GOOFING AROUND!
HUH?
AND NOW THE NEWLYWEDS WILL CUT THE FIRST PIECE OF CAKE TOGETHER, SYMBOLIZING THE BEGINNING OF THEIR NEW LIFE.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
YOU'RE ONLY HERE SO YOU CAN EAT MY MOM'S FOOD.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU! YOU EVEN BROUGHT BOOZE!
YOU'RE SUCH A LITTLE BRAT. HAVEN'T YOU EVER HEARD THE PHRASE "THE MORE THE MERRIER"?
WHAT'RE YOU TWO DOING HERE ANYWAY?
THERE'S NO ROOM FOR YOU!
WE JUST WANTED TO JOIN THE PARTY.
BUT...
IT'S OKAY, MIHO. THERE'S PLENTY FOR EVERYONE.

YOU CAN CELEBRATE WITH US, GORO-CHAN.
MEOW
HEAR THAT? THERE'S PLENTY!
OKAY, LET'S EAT! PASS ME SOME FRIED CHICKEN.
SAO-TOME-SAN, YOU'RE SO RUDE.
LET YAMATO-KUN HAVE SOME FIRST!
HEY, I MADE THAT!

PARTIES LIKE THIS CAN BE FUN ONCE IN A WHILE, YOU KNOW?
HA, HA... THIS PARTY IS ALREADY GETTING OUT OF HAND.

HEE HEE
THAT'S NOT A NICE THING TO SAY ABOUT AYANO-SAN'S COOKING.

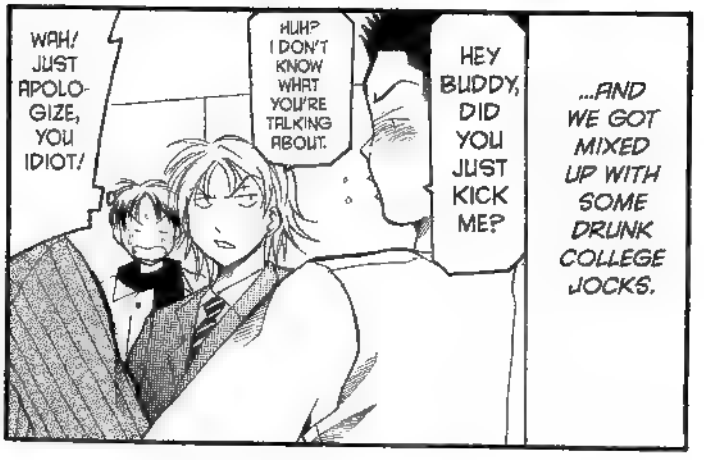
AFTER ALL, IT'S THE "ATMO-SPHERE" THAT MAKES THE FOOD TASTE GOOD, RIGHT?
...YEAH, I GUESS.

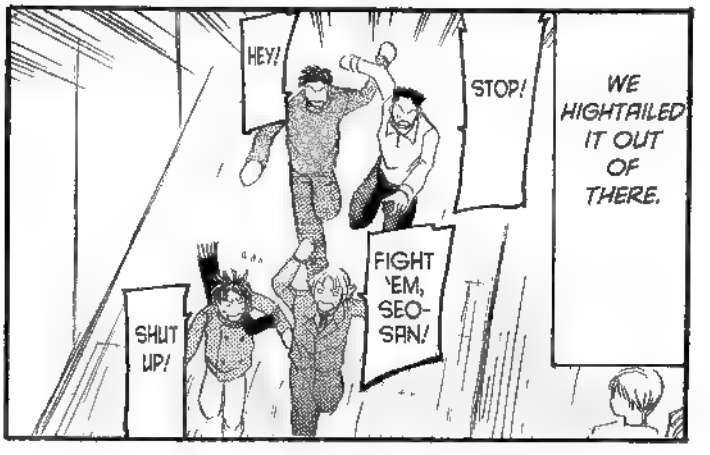
EEW, YOU REEK OF BOOZE!
FWAP
BLEAH
WELL... YOU TWO SEEM TO BE GETTING ALONG WELL.
THIS GUY'S A REAL PERVERT. THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT HE MIGHT DO IF YOU LET DOWN YOUR GUARD.
BE CAREFUL, SUZUKA-CHAN!
MAKING STUFF UP?
STOP MAKING STUFF UP.
YOU'RE RIGHT. I'LL BE CAREFUL.
OR MAYBE I'M TOO LATE.
...!
BLUSH
FUU
YOU WERE ON THE ESCALA-TOR BEHIND SUZUKA-CHAN... STARING RIGHT AT HER LITTLE—
ACTUALLY ...I JUST HAPPENED TO CATCH A GLIMPSE OF YOU TODAY.

TH—
THAT'S CRAZY!
I CAUGHT IT ALL ON MY CELL PHONE! I'LL NEED 10,000 YEN* IF YOU WANT THE EVIDENCE DESTROYED.
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
バカ!
YOU IDIOT!
* $100
WAAH! OKAY! OKAY! I'LL PAY.
OH, REALLY? HEY SUZUKA-CHAN!
I'VE GOT A LITTLE VIDEO HERE YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN SEEING.
I SAW YOU LOOKING UP SUZUKA-CHAN'S SKIRT TODAY!
YOU SHOULDN'T BE DOING THAT, YOU KNOW! IT'S SEXUAL HARASSMENT.
OH, BY THE WAY YAMATO-KUN...
Y-YEAH...
OH, GREAT. SHE BLEW IT.
I GUESS I'LL JUST DELETE IT.
NO, I...I WAS...
BEEP

I WAS HOPING THAT IF I MADE A FRESH START IN TOKYO... MAYBE MY LIFE WOULD CHANGE.
GROSS!
COULDA FOOLED ME... WITH THAT HUGE GRIN ON YOUR FACE
REALLY?
I DIDN'T MEAN TO!
OR MAYBE I REALLY DID ANGER THE GODS OF THAT SHRINE
MAYBE IT WAS THE GODS ANSWERING M PRAYERS
MY LIFE IS STARTING TO CHANGE IN A BIG WAY...
I HATE YOU!
YOU IDIOT, YAMATO-KUN.
NO— STOP, GORO-CHAN! THAT'S MY CHICKEN!
OUCH!
...JUST AS I HAD HOPED IT WOULD.

AS ALWAYS, WE WENT OUT TO KARAOKE...
I KNOW HOW TO SING
ON HIS WAY HOME FROM WORK
HE DRAGGED ME OUT
YOU'VE GOTTA LEARN HOW TO SING, SEO-SAN.
EVERY TIME I GO OUT WITH YASUNOBU-KUN WE END UP GETTING IN SOME KIND OF TROUBLE.


WAH! JUST APOLO-GIZE, YOU IDIOT!
HUH? I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
HEY BUDDY, DID YOU JUST KICK ME?
...AND WE GOT MIXED UP WITH SOME DRUNK COLLEGE JOCKS.



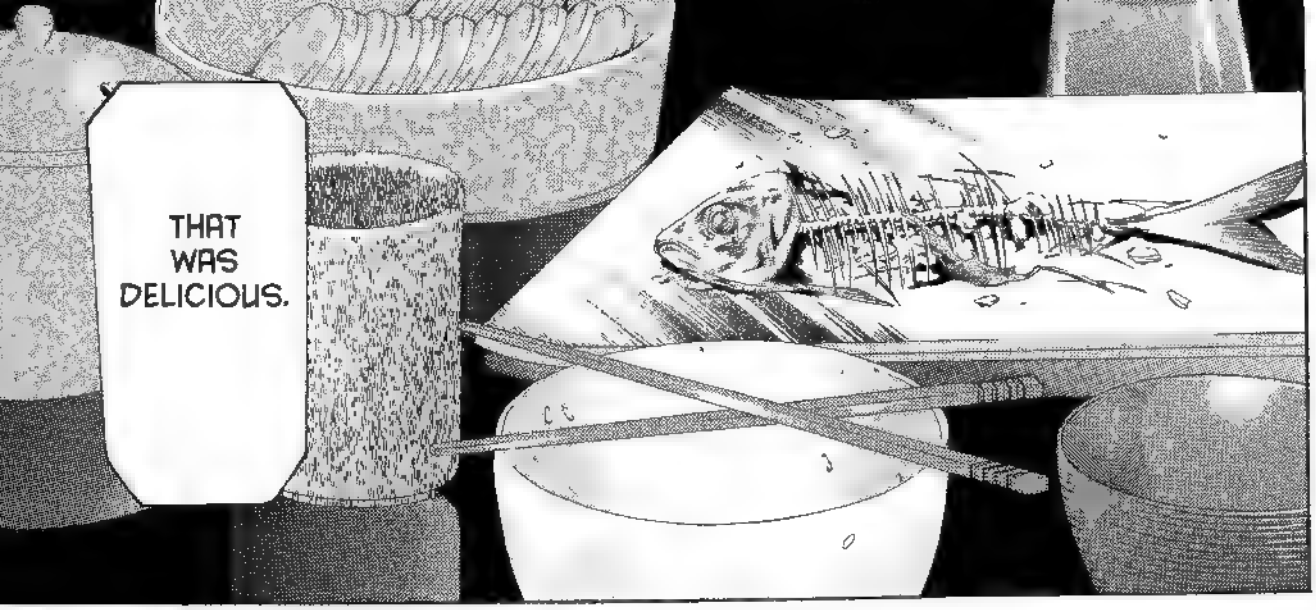
SUZUKA FOUR-PANEL THEATER NUMBER TWO

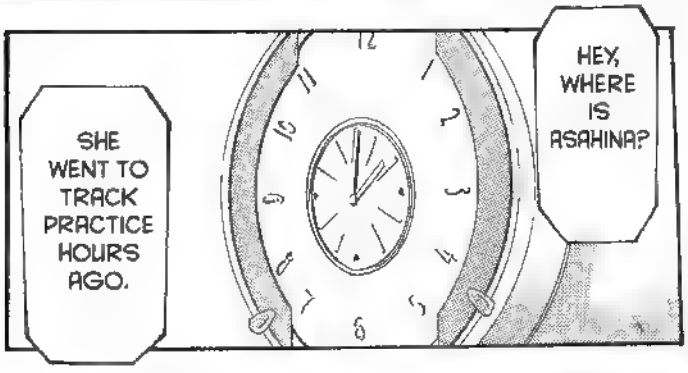
THE TROUBLEMAKER

OKAY, YAMATO-KUN, I'M LEAVING!
ALL RIGHT! GOOD LUCK OUT THERE, MIHO-CHAN.
HA, HA... OKAY.
I'M SO NERVOUS.
A WHOLE SCHOOL FULL OF COMPLETE STRANGERS.
THE ONLY PERSON I'LL KNOW THERE... IS HER.

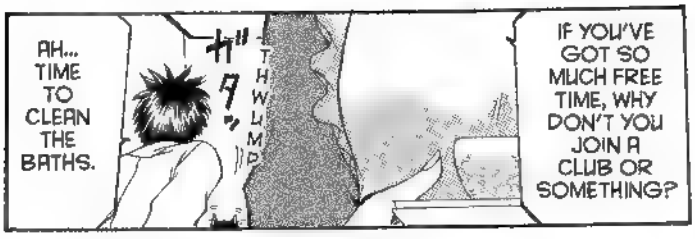
Suzuka

#2
Hattori


THAT WAS DELICIOUS.


HEY, WHERE IS ASAHINA?
SHE WENT TO TRACK PRACTICE HOURS AGO.

GEEZ, YAMATO-KUN...
IT'S SUCH A NICE DAY, WHY DON'T YOU TRY GOING OUTSIDE FOR ONCE?
CLACK
CLAK
HERE, GORO-CHAN.
YOU COULD LEARN A FEW THINGS BY WATCHING SUZUKA-CHAN.


AH... TIME TO CLEAN THE BATHS.
THWUMP
IF YOU'VE GOT SO MUCH FREE TIME, WHY DON'T YOU JOIN A CLUB OR SOMETHING?

CLOP
CLOP
MAN... SOMETIMES RYANO-SAN SOUNDS JUST LIKE MY MOM.

SLAM
SIGH.

301
AKIZUKI
CLICK
THEY'RE DEFINITELY SISTERS.

HOPE YOU DON'T MIND ME HANGING OUT IN YOUR ROOM.
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
HEY!
LONG TIME NO SEE!
WH-WHO ARE YOU?
HUH?
IT'S ME, HATTORI-KUN!
COME ON, YOU DON'T REMEMBER ME?

HUH? WELL...IT WAS UNLOCKED. YOU SHOULD BE MORE CAREFUL.
HATTORI...? YASUNOBU HATTORI?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN MY ROOM?
HEY, YOU'RE EATING MY POTATO CHIPS?
CRUNCH
OH, I SEE, IT WAS UNLOCKED, SO YOU THOUGHT YOU'D JUST WALK RIGHT IN?
WHAT'RE YOU, A BURGLAR?
STOP BEING SUCH A LITTLE BITCH. WE'RE BEST FRIENDS, AREN'T WE?
HMMPH... I COULDN'T FIND A SINGLE PORNO MAG IN THIS ROOM.
POTATO CHIPS
HE'S A TOTAL PERVERT.
BEST FRIENDS?
THAT'S YASUNOBU HATTORI (AGE 15). HE WAS BORN AND RAISED RIGHT HERE IN TOKYO.
YEAH, THAT'S BECAUSE I DON'T HAVE ANY!
YEAH, RIGHT.
I MET HIM TEN YEARS AGO.

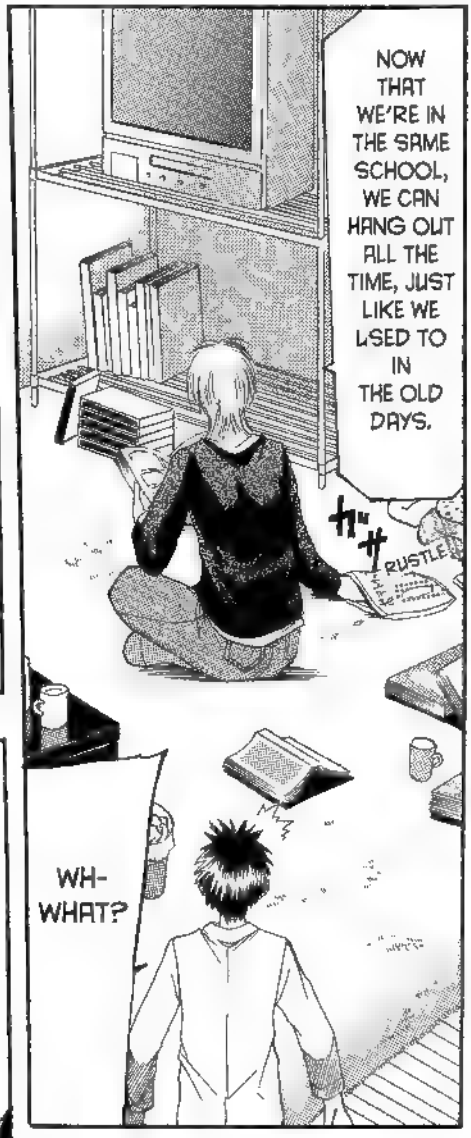
IT WAS MY FIRST TIME VISITING AUNT AYANO-SAN, AND I GOT LOST.
UNH... SNIFF
MOMMY
WHAT'S WRONG? ARE YOU LOST?
HUH?
HA, HA, HA, HA! YOUR FACE IS ALL DIRTY!
YOU'VE GOT SNOT ALL OVER YOUR NOSE!
WH-WHO ARE YOU?
JUST STOP CRYING! HERE, HAVE A TISSUE.
AT FIRST, HE SEEMED LIKE A REALLY NICE GUY.
OH, SO YOUR AUNT IS THE LADY WHO RUNS THE BATHS.
YEAH.
WE..L, THEN... I KNOW JUST HOW YOU CAN REPAY ME.
GRIN
HUH?
IT WAS ALL DOWN-HILL FROM THERE.

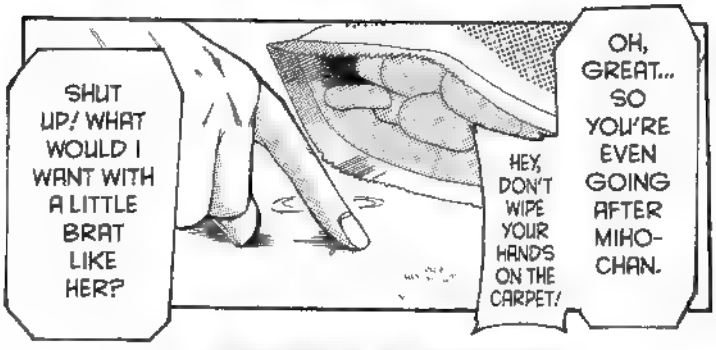
FROM THAT DAY ON, EVERY TIME I CAME TO VISIT...
YAMATO-KUN, LET'S GO PLAY
WOW NICE. YAMATO-KUN... YOU MADE A LITTLE FRIEND
HE MADE ME PRY HIM BACK BY TAKING HIM TO PARTS OF THE BATHS WHERE NO ONE WAS SUPPOSED TO GO
YOU'RE GONNA TAKE ME TO THE SECRET SPOT AGAIN, RIGHT? HEH, HEH, HEH
カポーン
SPLASH
GOD, I LOVE THIS BOILER ROOM!
ゴゥン
ONLY YASUNOBU KUN ISN'T THAT ENOUGH?
ALL RIGHT! THIS YEAR WE'RE GONNA DO THINGS A LITTLE DIFFERENTLY
HUH

WAH!
WH-WHAT THE-!
HUH?
KYAA!
FWAP
HELP ME, PLEASE! YAMATO-KUN IS PICKING ON ME!
HUH?
I TOLD HIM THAT WE WEREN'T SUP-POSED TO PEEK AT YOU GUYS...
...BUT ALL HE DID WAS HIT ME, AND TELL ME TO SHUT UP.
WHAT?
HOW DARE YOU DO THAT TO HIM!
AWW... YOU POOR THING.
"RUB
"RUB
WAH!
HEH, HEH, HEH.
EVEN AT THAT AGE, HE WAS A NATURAL WHEN IT CAME TO GETTING ATTENTION FROM GIRLS.
HOW COULD YOU, YAMATO-KUN?
NO, IT WASN'T LIKE THAT, AYANO-SAN!
AND I WAS ALWAYS THE ONE WHO GOT IN TROUBLE.

SHUT UP.
YOU STILL DON'T HAVE A GIRLFRIEND, DO YOU? MAN, YOU'RE SUCH AN OTAKU.
MAGAZINE
MANGA

WE'RE EVEN IN THE SAME CLASS.
I RAN INTO MIHO-CHAN OVER THERE...
...AND SHE TOLD ME ALL ABOUT IT.
CRUNCH


NOW THAT WE'RE IN THE SAME SCHOOL, WE CAN HANG OUT ALL THE TIME, JUST LIKE WE USED TO IN THE OLD DAYS.
RUSTLE
WH-WHAT?

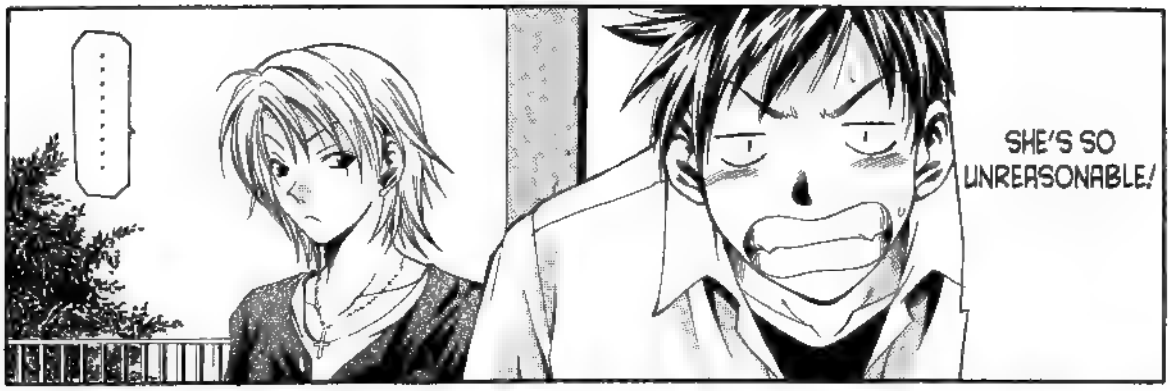

OH, GREAT... SO YOU'RE EVEN GOING AFTER MIHO-CHAN.
HEY, DON'T WIPE YOUR HANDS ON THE CARPET!
SHUT UP! WHAT WOULD I WANT WITH A LITTLE BRAT LIKE HER?

FOR ME TO TAKE NOTICE, A GIRL HAS TO BE SUPER SEXY.
LIKE YOUR WIDOWED AUNT, AYANO-SAN... SHE'S NOT BAD.

HUH?
302
SUZUKA ASAHINA
HEY, STOP IT! I'M NOT READY TO GO HOME YET!
グイ SHOVE
グイ SHOVE
I DON'T WANNA HEAR IT! JUST GET OUT!
HUH?
HEY, HEY, WHAT ABOUT THIS GIRL NEXT DOOR... SUZUKA-CHAN...
IS SHE HOT?
I CAN'T TELL HIM SHE'S GOING TO OUR SCHOOL TOO. THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT HE MIGHT DO.
ASAHINA MIGHT BE A LITTLE HARD TO DEAL WITH, BUT SHE'S DEFINITELY CUTE.
WELL, IS SHE?
I LIKE THE SOUND OF HER NAME.

WHA...
WHAT'S THIS?
I'LL LET YOU SEE SOMETHING REALLY COOL, BRO.
HEY, IF YOU INTRODUCE ME TO SUZUKA-CHAN...
BLIP
THERE'S NO WAY I'M INTRO-DUCING HIM TO HER!
OH YEAH, ASAHINA?
SAHINA
WHAT? SERIOUSLY?
SHE'S IN HER FIFTIES.
SHE'S ALSO FAT, UGLY, AND REALLY MEAN. SHE'S AN OLD HAG.
IT'S A PHOTO GALLERY OF PANTY SHOTS OF ALL THE GIRLFRIENDS I'VE HAD. IT'S MY PRIDE AND JOY.
R606i
ALL THE GIRLFRIENDS YOU'VE HAD? YOU MUST GO THROUGH THEM PRETTY QUICKLY.
THAT'S JUST THE WAY IT IS. MEN AREN'T MEANT TO BE WITH JUST ONE GIRL.
I NEED A HAREM.

WELL, EXCUSE ME...
...FOR BEING A FAT, UGLY, OLD HAG!
I HATE YOU!
SLAM
W-WAIT! I ONLY SAID THAT 'CAUSE—
I DON'T WANNA HEAR YOUR EXCUSES, JERK!
WAH! ASAHINA!
HUH? THAT'S HER?


.....
SHE'S SO UNREASONABLE!

HMM...

.....
HELLO... ASAHINA... THE SOY SAUCE.
SLAM

ALL YOU TWO DO IS FIGHT.
THANKS.

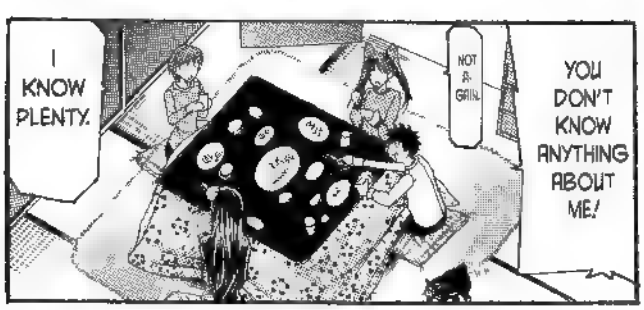
LISTEN, I DIN'T MEAN–
DON'T BLAME ME. I'M JUST A FAT, UGLY, OLD HAG!
HMMPH
CHOMP
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
CHOMP

ASAHINA, COULD YOU PASS THE SOY SAUCE?
CLINK
.....
SU- SUZUKA-SAN...
CLINK

THAT REMINDS ME, YAMATO-KUN...
DID YOU HANG OUT WITH YASUNOBU HATTORI-KUN TODAY?
OH, DID YOU SEE HIM?
YEAH, HE STOPPED BY TO SAY HELLO.
HE'S SUCH A CUTE KID. I REALLY LIKE YASUNOBU-KUN.
HMMPH

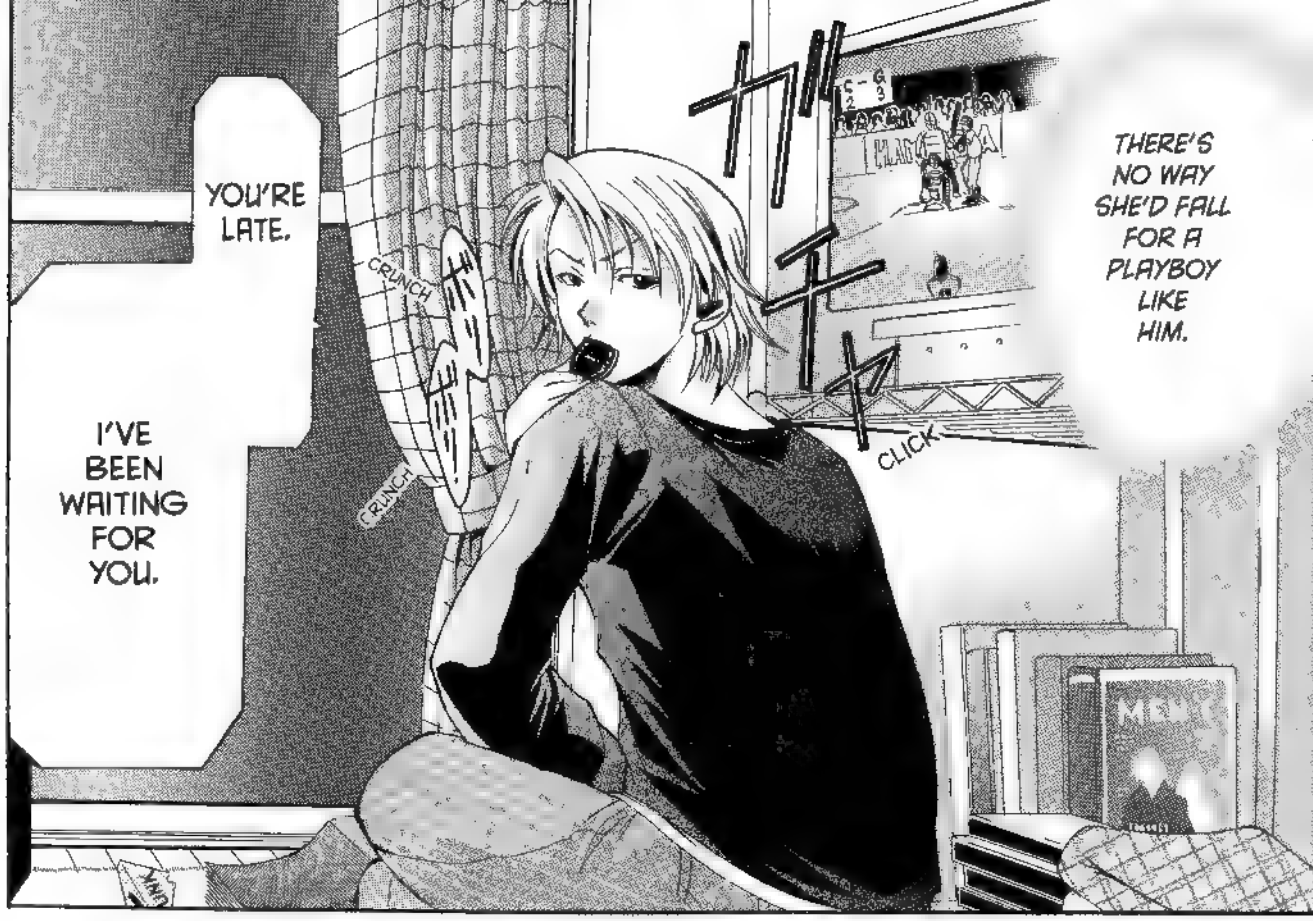
HE'S A TOTAL PERVERT.
YOU ALWAYS SAY THAT.
CHOMP
CHOMP
HERE'S YOUR TEA, SUZUKA-CHAN.
OH, THANKS.

WOW.
I GUESS HE'S NOTHING LIKE YOU, YAMATO-KUN.


YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT ME!
NOT AGAIN.
I KNOW PLENTY.

BUT WE WERE IN THE SAME JUNIOR HIGH...
HE WAS SO POPULAR, HE HAD HIS OWN FAN CLUB.

IF YOU WEREN'T SUCH A SLOB, YOU'D PROBABLY BE JUST AS POPULAR AS HE IS.
OH, NO... I HOPE HATTORI-SAN ISN'T A BAD INFLUENCE ON YOU, YAMATO-KUN.
HEY, STOP TEASING HER!
クス クス
HEE...
HEE...
HUH? BI-ASED?
I THINK YOU MIGHT BE JUST A WEE BIT BIASED, MIHO-CHAN.
...WHAT ASAHINA WOULD THINK OF YASUNOBU.
I WON-DER...
...!
WOULD SHE FALL FOR HIM LIKE ALL THE REST?
WHAT?
LOOK A LUCKY TEA STEM!
AH, YAMATO-KUN YOU DIDN'T EAT YOUR ONIONS
UH... NOTHING! THANKS FOR DINNER.
NO WAY.


YOU'RE LATE.
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
CLICK
THERE'S NO WAY SHE'D FALL FOR A PLAYBOY LIKE HIM.
MEN

YOU- YOU LITTLE—
GRR

WERE YOU TRYING TO COVER SOMETHING UP?
RUSTLE
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID SUZUKA-CHAN WAS A FAT, UGLY, FIFTY-YEAR-OLD HAG.

I WASN'T...
N- NO.

AH! MY COCONUT COOKIES!
I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU WERE GOING HOME!
YOU LIAR!
SHUT UP! YOU'RE THE LIAR!

IS THAT RIGHT?
WELL, THEN... MAYBE I'LL TRY TO PICK UP SUZUKA-CHAN.
THERE'S NO WAY ASAHINA WOULD FALL FOR YOU.
WOO WOO
OH, REALLY?
.....
HMMPH!
ピンポーン DING DONG
ピンポーン DING DONG
HUH?
SOUNDS LIKE YOU'VE GOT A VISITOR.
MAYBE IT'S SUZUKA-CHAN.
ピンポーン DING DONG
YEAH, RIGHT.
LISTEN, KEEP IT DOWN, OKAY?
GUYS AREN'T EVEN SUPPOSED TO BE ALLOWED N HERE.
ROGER.
EVEN AYANO-SAN WOULDN'T LET ME GET AWAY WITH HAVING HIM OVER AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT.
YES?

HELLO! IT'S US, YOUR FAVORITE ESCORTS!
BLEAH
FWAP
O-OH, IT'S YOU... YUUKA-SAN.
WHAT? YOU CALLED AN ESCORT SERVICE?
PHEW.
OH, I GET IT. YOU WERE TRYING TO GET ME TO LEAVE, SO YOU COULD HAVE THOSE ESCORTS ALL TO YOURSELF, WEREN'T YOU?
THANK GOD, I DIDN'T GO HOME.
CLOP
CLOP
NO.
YOU'RE TOTALLY SMASHED, MEGUMI-SAN.
SHOW ME YOUR BOOBS, SHOW ME YOUR BOOBS... THAT'S ALL MEN EVER THINK ABOUT. I CAN'T STAND IT ANYMORE.

OH, MY GOD... I'VE DIED AND GONE TO HEAVEN!
WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE, A BAR?
WE COULDN'T FIND ANY DECENT GUYS ANY-WHERE, SO...
ズカ
SHWIP
WE THOUGHT WE'D COME OVER AND HANG OUT HERE.
ズカ
SHWIP
WH-WHAT?
GLARE
.....
WAH! NO, STOP!
FWIP
IF YOU WANT TO SEE THEM SO BADLY, THEN WHY DON'T YOU SAY SOMETHING, GOD DAMN IT! STOP BEATING AROUND THE BUSH!
HUH?
WOW, THOSE ARE REALLY COOL GLASSES. ARE THEY GUCCI?

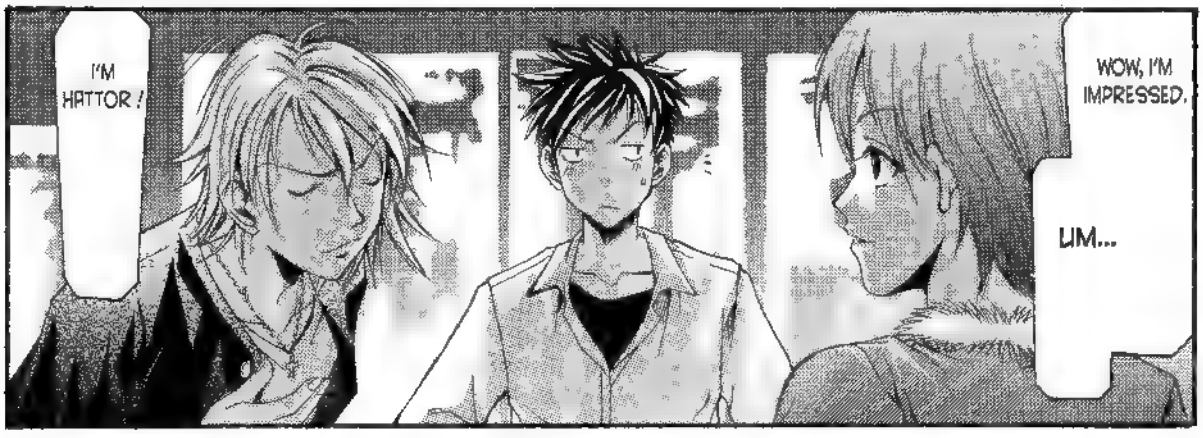
THAT'S THE FIRST COMPLI-MENT...
...I'VE EVER GOTTEN THAT WASN'T ABOUT MY BOOBS.
WOW!
FWUMP
NOTHING BEATS THE REAL THING!
FWIP
I BROUGHT MY GUCCIS TOO. LOOK.
HUH?
WHAT?
DRIP
WOW! YOU REALLY KNOW YOUR STUFF.
HEY! IS THAT DOM PERIGNON?
IN A WAY, YOU'VE GOT TO RESPECT THE MAN'S TALENT.
HEY, YAMATO! GET ME A CLIP.
YOU'RE SUCH A BAD HOST.
GO AHEAD. SOMEONE GAVE IT TO ME ANYWAY.
STROKE なで
STROKE なで
OH, MAN... I WISH I COULD TRY SOME.

WHAT WAS I SUPPOSED TO DO? YUUKA-SAN SAID SHE WANTED SOME PEANUTS.
CHECK HER OUT SHE'S SO
THAT ONE'S A 73
SO?
WHY'D YOU HAVE TO DRAG ME OUT SHOPPING?
YANASE
YOU'RE SUCH A PUSH-OVER.
HOW CAN YOU BE SUCH A KISS ASS?
I KNOW YOU WANNA BE POPULAR, BUT...
SUZURAN BOULE
YEAH
FIRST, YOU COMPLIMENT MEGUMI-SAN'S GLASSES, THEN THE CHAMPAGNE. I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU PULL IT OFF
A KISS ASS?
YOU'RE JUST LAZY.
STORE
EVER
BESIDES, HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF A GIRL WHO HATES COMPLIMENTS?
IF I DID, MY REPUTATION WOULD BE RUINED.
YOU IDIOT! IT'S NOT LIKE I WOULD HAVE SAID THAT IF IT WASN'T TRUE.

HMM...I WONDER IF...
ASAKINA LIKES COMPLIMENTS TOO.
HEY, IT'S SUZUKA CHAN!
SHOCK
LOOK, ISN'T THAT SUZUKA-CHAN?
AH... YOU'RE RIGHT. WHAT'S SHE DOING HERE?
I JUST GOT A CALL FROM THIS STORE SAYING THAT THE MICROWAVE I ORDERED CAME IN.
THEY WERE STILL OPEN, SO I WENT TO PICK IT UP.
HEY, SUZUKA-CHAN. WHAT'RE YOU DOING OUT SO LATE?
PICK IT UP?
WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST GET IT DELIVERED?

YOU KNOW...
SUPER SALE
I ONLY BOUGHT IT BECAUSE OF WHAT YOU SAID, YAMATO-KUN.
NO WAY. THAT COSTS MONEY.
BESIDES, I CAN CARRY IT MYSELF.
YOU'RE SUCH A CHEAP-SKATE
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID I SHOULD DO MY OWN COOKING!
MICROWAVE
IT MAKES STEAMING SIMPLE
HUH? WHAT DID I SAY?
YOU IDIOT.
BUT WHY A MICRO-WAVE? I MEAN, WHAT CAN YOU COOK WITH THAT?
I DIDN'T WANT TO CAUSE TOO MUCH TROUBLE FOR AYANO-SAN, SO...
I FIGURED I COULD AT LEAST COOK FOR MYSELF ON WEEKENDS.
YOU ARE SO CLUELESS.

WH-WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
IF SHE JUST WANTED TO WARM STUFF UP, SHE COULD DO THAT AT A CONVENIENCE STORE.
HAVEN'T YOU EVER HEARD OF MICROWAVE COOKING?
IF YOU PRE-COOK A POTATO IN THE MICROWAVE, YOU DON'T HAVE TO BOIL IT FOR AS LONG.
YOU CAN SAVE A LOT OF MONEY ON YOUR GAS BILL.


I'M HATTORI!
WOW, I'M IMPRESSED.
UM...

OH, YOU CAN STEAM STUFF WITH THIS ONE, CAN'T YOU? I SAW IT ON THE COMMERCIAL.
YEAH, I'M GONNA MAKE ALL KINDS OF STUFF.
WH-WHAT'S WITH ASAHINA?
SHE LOOKS LIKE SHE'S HAVING WAY MORE FUN THAN WHEN SHE'S TALKING TO ME.

HUH?
WAIT A SECOND. I THOUGHT YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BUY PEANUTS.
OH, I COULDN'T LET YOU DO THAT.
THAT MUST BE HEAVY. WANT ME TO CARRY IT BACK TO YOUR APART-MENT?
HUH?
I'M GOING TO CARRY THIS FOR SUZUKA-CHAN.
WHY DON'T YOU TAKE CARE OF THAT?
HE'S ALREADY MAKING HIS MOVE.
.....
WELL THEN...
MAYBE I'LL TRY TO PICK UP ON SUZUKA-CHAN.
.....
THREE'S A CROWD
COME ON, YAMATO...
I KNEW IT!

NO!
I'LL CARRY ASAHINA'S STUFF FOR HER!

HUH?
YAMATO-KUN?

IV BEING CARE FU
YOU ARE NOT

Dee

I'll
IV
YANK
YOU GO BUY THE PEANUTS!
COME ON, ASAHINA!
HUH?
HEY, CAREFUL WITH THAT! YOU'RE GONNA BREAK IT!

HEY... WHAT'RE YOU SO MAD ABOUT?
CLOP
NO-THING!
DAMN, DAMN! I'M SO PISSED.
BESIDES, HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF A GIRL WHO HATES COMPLIMENTS?
H-HEY, ASAHINA!
WHAT?
HMM... COMPLIMENTS SOUNDS EASY ENOUGH.
REALLY LIKE...
THE SHAPE OF YOUR EARS!
.....
HUH?
I MEAN... I WAS JUST THINKING... YOU'VE GOT REALLY NICE EARS...
N-NO-THING...

THUNK
I TRY TO SAY SOMETHING NICE ABOUT YOU AND YOU STILL ACT ALL GRUMPY.
YASUNOBU! YOU NO GOOD LIAR!
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU BABBLING ABOUT?

WELL, WHAT DO YOU EXPECT FROM A FAT, UGLY, OLD HAG LIKE ME?

LOOK, I SAID I WAS SORRY!
I'M MEAN? YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID ALL THAT STUFF BEHIND MY BACK.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE STILL HOLDING THAT AGAINST ME. YOU'RE SO MEAN.
SHE WAS ACTING LIKE A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON WHEN SHE WAS TALKING TO YASUNOBU.

DAMN, SHE PISSES ME OFF!
HMMPH!

YOU LOOK SO COOL WHEN YOU'RE DOING THE HIGH JUMP BUT AS SOON AS YOU OPEN YOUR MOUTH IT'S A DIFFERENT STORY

COOL?
THAT'S RIGHT THE FIRST TIME I SAW YOU I WAS REALLY IMPRESSED BUT NOW...

I GUESS MY FIRST IMPRESSION OF HER WAS COMPLETELY WRONG
EVERY TIME SHE LOOKS AT ME SHE START'S COMPLAINING ABOUT SOMETHING

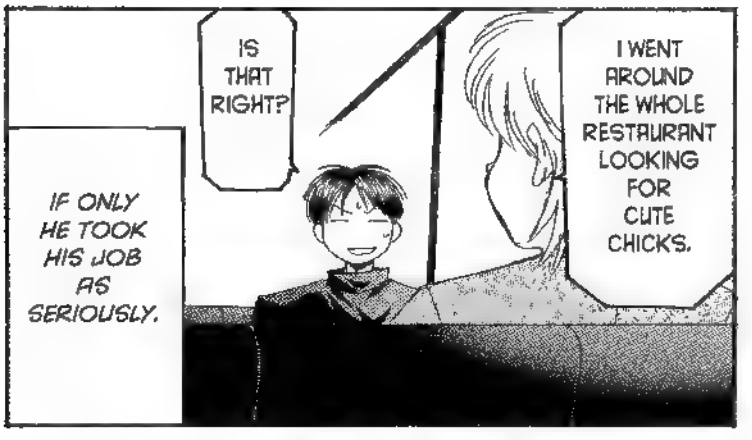
TH-
THANKS...
NO ONE'S EVER SAID THAT TO ME BEFORE.
HUH?
THUMP
THUMP

WHAT? NO WAY!
EVEN CAN TELL WHEN SOMEONE'S GOT TALENT
B-BUT
MAYBE I JUST LOOKED IMPRESSIVE TO YOU BECAUSE YOU'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE DO THE HIGH JUMP
ARE YOU BEING SERIOUS?
I CAN'T TELL. ALL YOU EVER DO IS JOKE AROUND!
W-
WELL I...
WOW, LOOK AT THAT CUTE EXPRESSION SHE MAKES WHEN SHE TALKS TO YAMATO

SHE LOOKS WAY HAPPIER THAN WHEN SHE WAS TALKING TO ME.
HOW DE PRESS-ING
DRINKS WITH THE TWO BABES
WELL, WHAT EVER.
AT LEAST YAMATO-KUN IS FINALLY GOING AFTER A GIRL
WE... SHALL WE?
SUZUKA ASAHINA
THE PERFECT GIRL WHO CAN'T STAND CLUELESS GUYS LIKE ME

WHEN I'M TOO LAZY TO READ, SHE SUBMENT ME WITH PASSION AND EXCITEMENT
BUT I AVOID SKINSHIP AND MEAN, BUT
MANGA
IT'S TIMES LIKE THIS WHEN I READ MY ART BOOK OUT ASPIRING READERS
MANGA
SHE'S SO CUTE WHEN SHE'S ANGRY
I DON'T KNOW WHY SHE'S SO MAD

SUZUKA FOUR-PANEL THEATER NUMBER THREE
WHENEVER, WHEREVER...

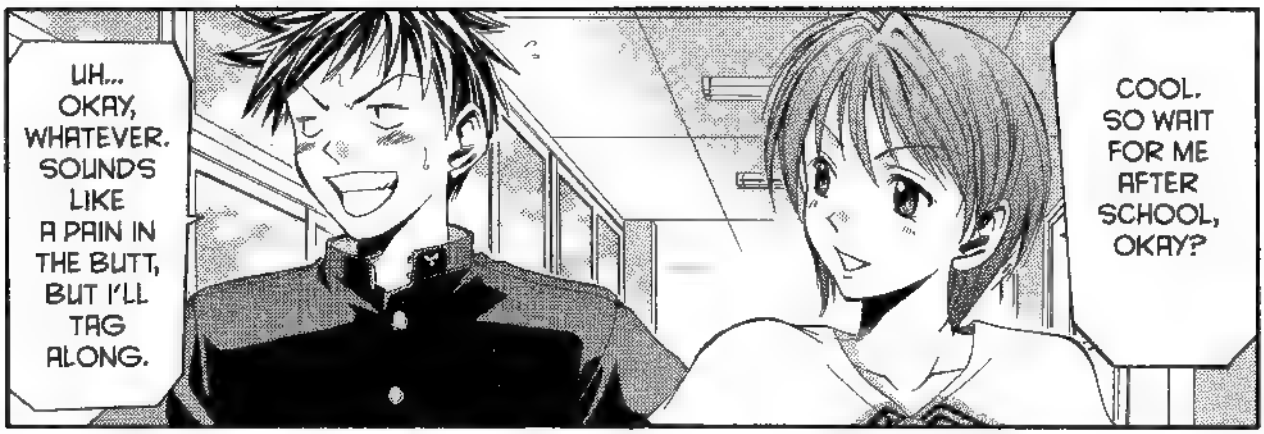


BYE, AYANO-SAN. I'M OFF!
ASAHIYU BATHS
AH, YAMATO-KUN! DO YOU HAVE YOUR HANDKER-CHIEF?
BUTTON UP YOUR COAT!
SUZUKA-CHAN IS LEAVING!
HURRY UP, YAMATO-KUN!
SO, I'M FINALLY STARTING HIGH SCHOOL!
I'M HOPING MY LIFE WILL CHANGE IF I MAKE A FRESH START.
WAH! HANG ON, ASAHINA!
I'VE GOT A FEELING...

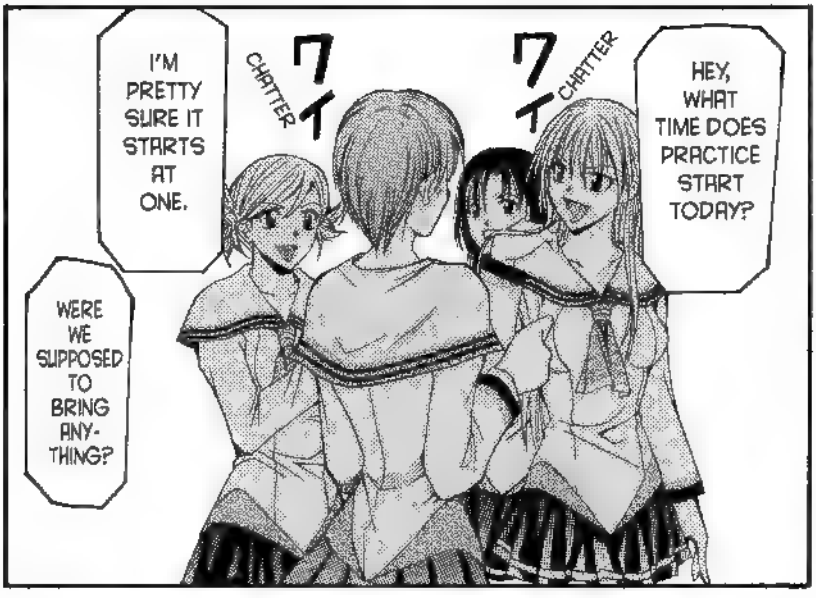
Suzuka
...SOMETHING GOOD IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN!
#3
Honoka

HMM... SO YOU'RE IN CLASS C TOO, YAMATO-KUN?
FRESHMEN WELCOME CEREMONY
NOT EXACTLY.
WHY? DO YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THAT?
ME TOO, SUZUKA-CHAN! ME TOO!
SHE DIDN'T EVEN WAIT FOR ME THIS MORNING.
DOES SHE HAVE TO BE SO MEAN?
NOT EXACTLY?
SHE'S SO COLD... WHY CAN'T SHE JUST SAY, "THAT'S GREAT!" OR SOMETHING?
SO...
Attendance List
1. Yamato Akitsuki
2. Suzuka Asahina
3.
4.
HIS NAME IS YAMATO-AKITSUKI-KUN...

1-C
SHOPPING?
HUH?
WHY ME?
YEAH, I'M GONNA GET OUT OF PRACTICE EARLY TODAY. WILL YOU COME WITH ME?
...AND THE GIRL WHO WAS SUPPOSED TO COME WTH ME WAS SICK TODAY.
MY SENPAI ASKED ME TO BUY A CASE OF ENERGY DRINKS...
N-NO... NOT REALLY...
DO YOU HAVE PLANS?


UH... OKAY, WHATEVER. SOUNDS LIKE A PAIN IN THE BUTT, BUT I'LL TAG ALONG.
COOL. SO WAIT FOR ME AFTER SCHOOL, OKAY?

UH... BYE.
SEE YOU LATER.

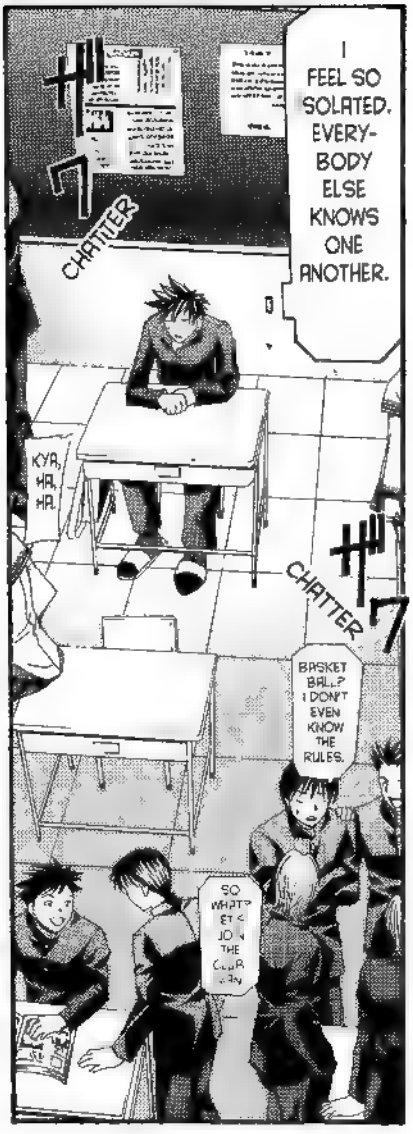

I'M PRETTY SURE IT STARTS AT ONE.
CHATTER
CHATTER
HEY, WHAT TIME DOES PRACTICE START TODAY?
WERE WE SUPPOSED TO BRING ANY-THING?

WOW, SO... ASAHINA HAS ALREADY MADE FRIENDS...
THOSE MUST BE HER FRIENDS FROM THE TRACK CLUB...

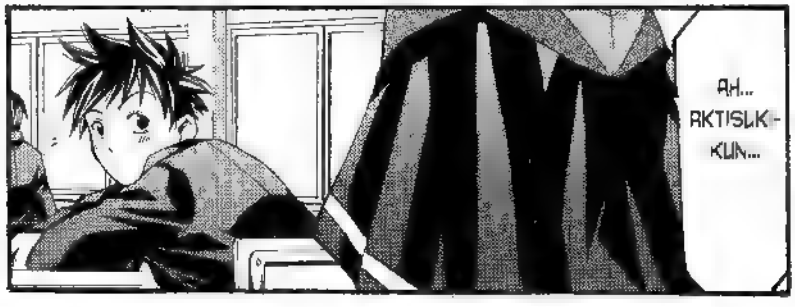
ASAH NA-SAN!
YOU'RE N CLASS C, RIGHT? WE'RE NEIGHBORS.
AH...

OH MY GOD, THAT'S SO CUTE! WHERE'D YOU GET IT?
YEAH DUDE, I SAW IT!
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
ALL ALONE

ASAHINA ISN'T HERE YET.
THEY DON'T REALLY WANT TO THEY JUST SAY THAT.
YEAH, KNOW.
WHY ARE GIRLS ALWAYS TRYING TO BREAK UP?
YASUNOBU IS TALKING TO ALL HIS OLD FRIENDS, AND...


I FEEL SO SOLATED. EVERY-BODY ELSE KNOWS ONE ANOTHER.
CHATTER
KYA, HA, HA.
CHATTER
BASKET BALL? I DON'T EVEN KNOW THE RULES.
SO WHAT? ET < JO N THE CLUB

IT'S JUST ME... ALL BY MYSELF.
SO THIS IS THE CRUEL TRUTH.


AH... AKTSLK-KUN...

HUH?
WH-WHO ARE YOU?
I GUESS... WE'RE IN THE SAME CLASS.
UH... UM...
W-WHAT?
YOU MEAN... YOU DON'T REMEMBER? THAT... SECRET WE HAD...
SA-KURA-I?
OH, WAIT... UH, DIDN'T I TELL YOU MY NAME? I'M HONOKA SAKURAI!

OH YEAH, I FORGOT TO TELL YAMATO-KUN WHERE TO MEET ME.
キョロ YOINK
キョロ YOINK
WHERE'D HE GO?

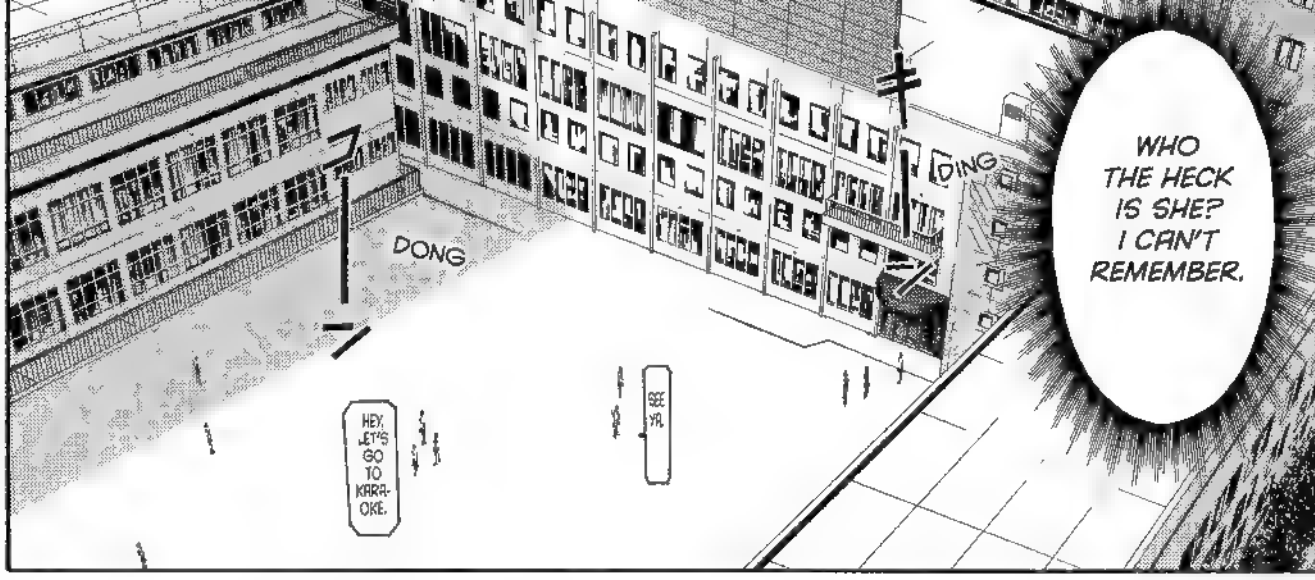
...?
...!

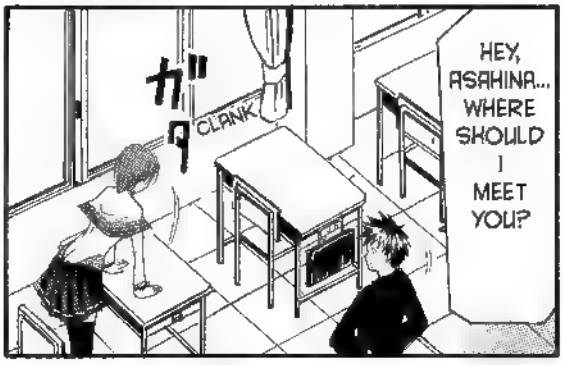
YOU KNOW HER... HATORI-KUN?
HUH? ISN'T THAT SAKURAI?

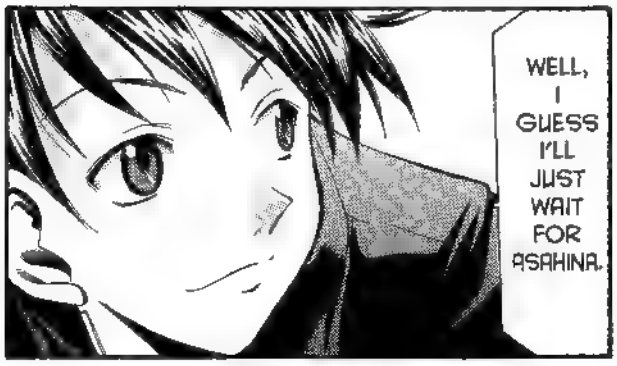
IS THAT... A FRIEND OF HIS?

YEAH, WE WENT TO THE SAME JUNIOR HIGH. BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN HER TALK TO A GUY LIKE THAT.
...!
LOOKS LIKE YAMATO IS GETTING SOME ACTION!

SO I GUESS YOU AND I BETTER DO SOMETHING TOO.
HEY, ARE YOU LISTENING?
WE'RE THE ONLY FRIENDS YAMATO HAS HERE.
HE'S SUCH A NEWBIE.
ARE YOU SURE THEY'RE NOT JUST FRIENDS?
I WAS A LITTLE WORRIED ABOUT YAMATO 'CAUSE HE'S SO BAD WITH CHICKS, BUT HE'S ACTUALLY DOING OKAY.
THEY'RE PROBABLY MAKING PLANS FOR AFTER SCHOOL.
YEAH... OKAY.
AH...THE TEACHER'S HERE.
S-SEE YOU LATER!
カラ
SLIDE
ALL RIGHT, EVERY-BODY! TAKE A SEAT!
BONK
OH! I'M SORRY.
AH!
HONOKA...
HONOKA SAKURAI...


WHO THE HECK IS SHE? I CAN'T REMEMBER.
DING
DONG
HEY, LET'S GO TO KARAOKE.
SEE YA.


ガタ
CLANK
HEY, ASAHINA... WHERE SHOULD I MEET YOU?


WELL, I GUESS I'LL JUST WAIT FOR ASAHINA.

FWIP
S-SORRY, HANG ON A SECOND...

HUH?
A-ASAHINA... WAIT! I NEED TO ASK YOU--

HONOKA-CHAN.
AH... UM... AKITSUKI-KUN...

I KNOW.
FORGET IT. I'LL GO BY MYSELF.

H-HUH?
LOOK, I'M IN A HURRY SO...

WHAT THE HECK IS HER PROBLEM?
IS SHE NUTS?

WAIT!
コツ CLOP
コツ CLOP
HEY, ASAHINA!

UH... AK-TSUKI-KUN... S THAT G RL YOUR...
HUH?

OH, SHE'S A FRIEND OF M NE.
ISN'T SHE CRAZY?

A FRIEND?
PHEW
UH...SO, HAVE WE MET SOMEWHERE BEFORE, HONOKA-CHAN?
I REALLY CAN'T REMEMBER.
.....
IT WAS ABOUT FIVE YEARS AGO...
WE MET AT MY FAMILY'S SHRINE.
YOUR FAMILY'S SHRINE?
YOU MEAN YOUR FAMILY RUNS THAT SHRINE?
YOU KNOW... SHUSSE INARI SHRINE.
YEAH... THE DAY WE MET, I WAS PLAYING WITH THE BELL THAT HANGS OVER THE SHRINE, AND IT BROKE.
KORO

OH, NO...
DADDY'S GONNA KILL ME...
SNIFF
HEY! YOU BROKE THE BELL!
SHOCK
WHAT'D YOU DO THAT FOR?
DING DONG
CHOMP
NOW HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO PRAY?
DING DONG
CHOMP
BUT...
DON'T CRY. I'LL FIX IT.
WHAT? NO WAY, IT'S RUINED.
DING
DON'T WORRY. I'M REALLY GOOD WITH THIS KIND OF STUFF.
UH.. I'M SORRY.
I WAS SURE THAT YOU WERE GONNA TELL ON ME.
WOW... IT'S FIXED.
YOUR DAD WILL NEVER KNOW!

JUST BETWEEN...
...ME AND YOU...
LISTEN... THIS IS GONNA BE OUR LITTLE SECRET. JUST BETWEEN ME AND YOU, OKAY?
OKAY.
UH... UM...
I'M SO GLAD YOU REMEMBERED.
TEE HEE
DON'T WORRY, I NEVER TOLD ANYBODY!
OH! WOW, SO THAT WAS YOU?
UH... OH, REALLY?
ACTUALLY, SOMETIMES I GO TO THAT SHRINE AND EAT CROQUETTES.
THE TRUTH IS, I SAW YOU EATING CROQUETTES AT THE SHRINE LOTS OF TIMES, BUT...
I WAS ALWAYS TOO EMBARRASSED TO SAY ANYTHING.
HUH?
WELL, NOT JUST CROQUETTES, LIKE ANYTHING TASTY.
DO YOU LIKE CROQUETTES, AK TSUKI-KUN?

R-REALLY?
OH, YEAH! I'VE BEEN WANTING TO GO THERE!
D D YOU HEAR ABOUT THE NEW OKONO-MIYAKI PLACE THAT OPENED NEAR THE STATION?
WELL... UM...
WELL, THEN...
UM...
カァァ
BLUSH
MAYBE... WE COULD...
...GO THERE TODAY...
FORGET IT...
I'LL GO BY MYSELF.
IF-IF-IF YOU CAN'T, THAT'S OKAY!
UH... TODAY?
SWIVEL
I JUST WANTED TO ASK!
SHE REALLY IS NUTS.
IT'D BE STUPID OF ME TO WAIT FOR HER AFTER WHAT SHE SAID.

PHEW...
PRACTICE WENT LONGER THAN I THOUGHT
SHWIP
DON'T FORGET, OKAY, ASAHINA?
A CASE OF ENERGY DRINKS.
OKAY.

キーン
コーン
カーン
A WHOLE CASE...
I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO MAKE TWO TRIPS.
THEY'RE PROBABLY MAKING PLANS FOR AFTER SCHOOL
I WISH YAMATO-KUN WERE HERE.
HE REALLY IS CLUELESS.
IS THIS WHAT HE CALLS "TAGGING ALONG"?
AH-CHOO!
AH...

YOU KEPT ME WAITING LONG ENOUGH.
YA-YAMATO-KUN!
YOU WAITED FOR ME?
FOR FIVE HOURS?
THANKS A LOT.
WHAT WAS I SUP-POSED TO DO?
THERE'S NO WAY YOU COULD CARRY A WHOLE CASE BY YOURSELF.
SIGH...
YAMATO AKITSUKI-KUN...
SORRY, HONOKA-CHAN. I PROMISED ASAHINA THAT I'D GO SHOPPING WITH HER.
I DON'T REALLY WANNA GO, BUT SHE CAN'T HANDLE IT BY HERSELF.

HE'S SO...
...SWEET AND SENSITIVE.
YOU ARE SUCH...
...AN IDIOT!
WHO IN THEIR RIGHT MIND WOULD WAIT FIVE WHOLE HOURS?
THAT'S CRAZY!
WHAT?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO KEPT ME WAITING!
I PRACTICALLY FROZE MY BUTT OFF, YOU KNOW?
HEY! ARE YOU LISTENING, ASAHINA!

HUH... WHY?
THAT'S HOW YOU PRONOUNCE IT CORRECTLY.
YEAH, AUSTRALIA.
YOU PUT YOUR TONGUE ON YOUR FRONT TEETH, AND THEN SWIRL IT BACK... 'RALIA.

SUZUKA FOUR-PANEL THEATER NUMBER FOUR
RALIA

THAT'S YOUR ONLY REASON?
CHICKS WOULD BE SO IMPRESSED.
DON'T YOU THINK IT'D BE COOL TO BE ABLE TO WATCH FOREIGN MOVIES WITHOUT SUBTITLES?

YOU'RE SUCH AN IDIOT!
"DO YOU UNDER-STAND?"*
THAT'S A PERFECTLY GOOD REASON.
TO BE HONEST, I WAS KIND OF IMPRESSED BY HIS SPONTANEITY.
*IN ENGLISH

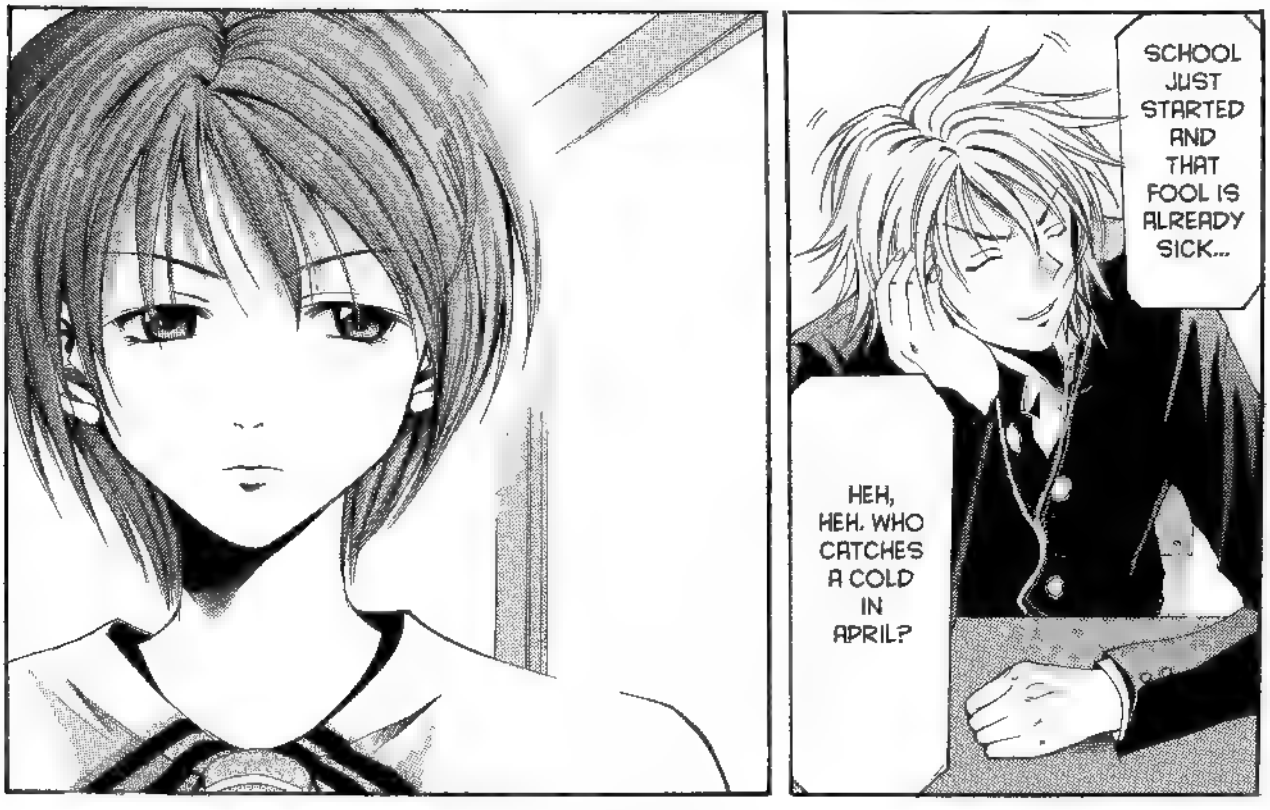
HE'S ACTUALLY THERE RIGHT NOW.

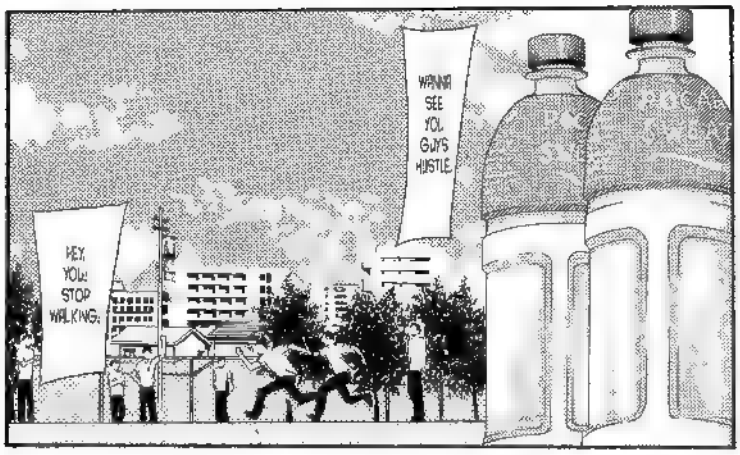
SO, DON'T CALL ME AN IDIOT!
HEY! I CAUGHT A COLD WAITING FOR YOU OUT THERE!
HAHH
HAHH
WHAT?
COUGH
AND STOP BREATHING ON ME!
I DIDN'T ASK YOU TO WAIT! STOP TRYING TO MAKE ME FEEL GUILTY!
SETTLE DOWN AND TAKE YOUR MEDICINE, YAMATO-KUN!
YEAH, I DON'T WANT YOU TO DIE, YAMATO-KUN!
COUGH
COUGH
YEAH, YOU DON'T WANT IT TO GET ANY WORSE, DO YOU?
WHY DON'T YOU GO TO SLEEP, YAMATO-KUN? I ALREADY CALLED THE SCHOOL FOR YOU.
HEY, WAIT!
I'M GOING TO SCHOOL! I DON'T WANT TO CATCH YOUR COLD RIGHT BEFORE THE BIG COMPETITION.

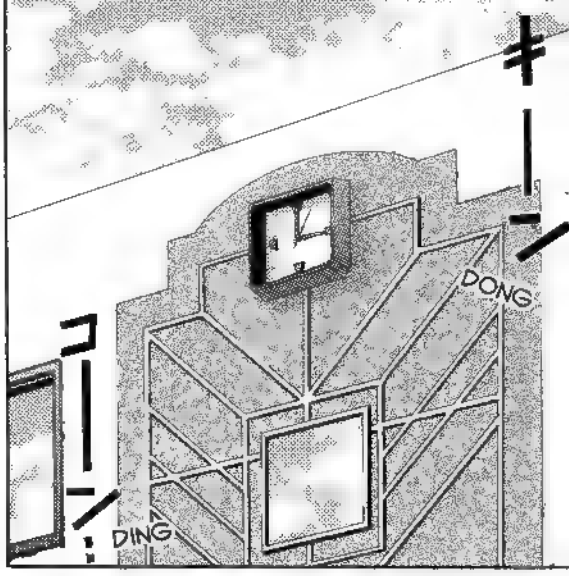
Suzuka
#4
The Visit

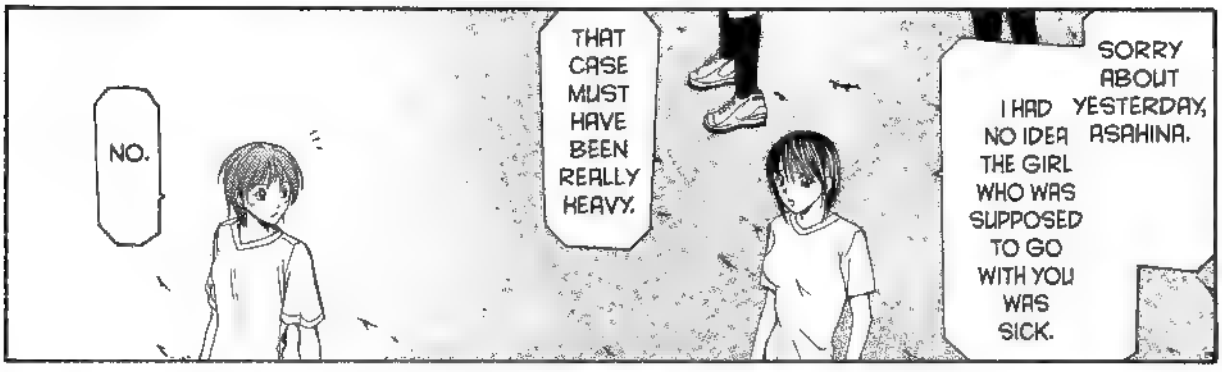
1-C
OKAY, LET'S TAKE ATTENDANCE.
AKITSUKI IS OUT WITH A COLD.
ASAKURA.
HERE.
INOUE?

AKITSUKI-KUN... CAUGHT A COLD...
I HOPE HE'S OKAY.


SCHOOL JUST STARTED AND THAT FOOL IS ALREADY SICK...
HEH, HEH. WHO CATCHES A COLD IN APRIL?

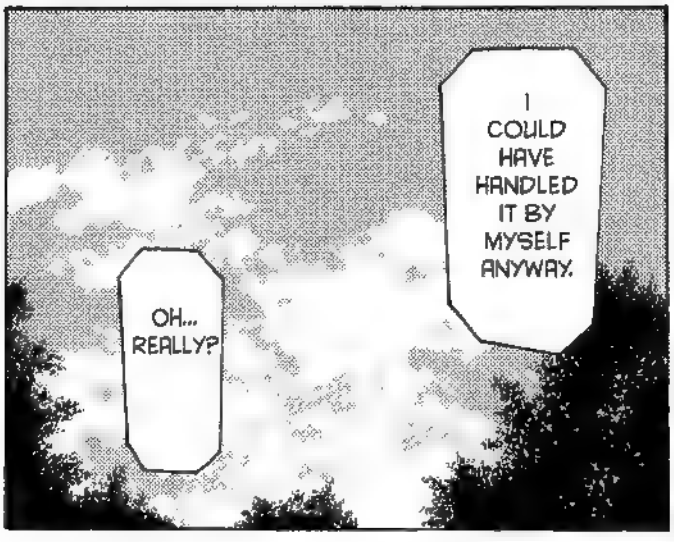

HEY, YOU, STOP WALKING.
WANNA SEE YOU GUYS HUSTLE.


DONG
DING


NO.
THAT CASE MUST HAVE BEEN REALLY HEAVY.
I HAD NO IDEA THE GIRL WHO WAS SUPPOSED TO GO WITH YOU WAS SICK.
SORRY ABOUT YESTERDAY, ASAHINA.

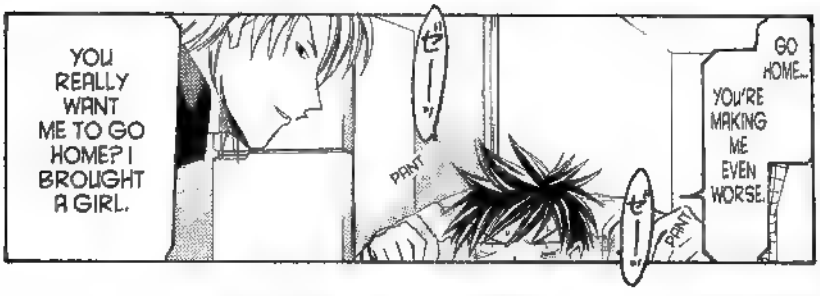
THERE'S NO WAY YOU COULD CARRY A WHOLE CASE BY YOURSELF.

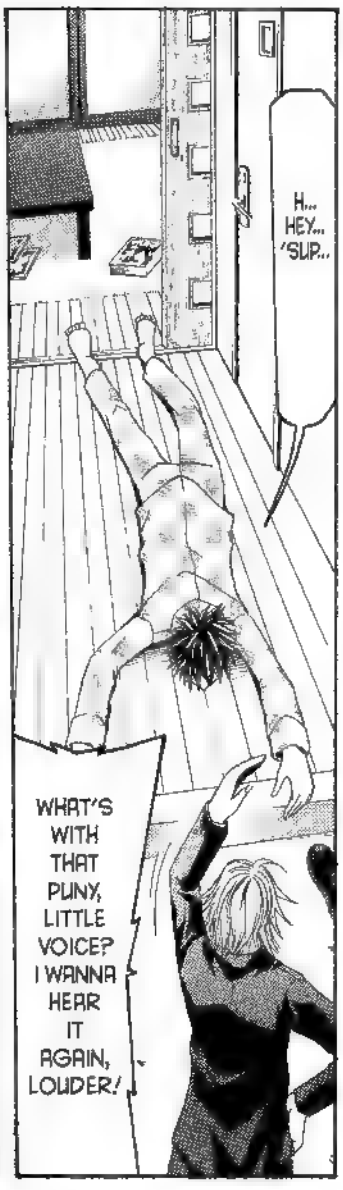
A FRIEND OF MINE GAVE ME A HAND.
REALLY? I GUESS EVERYTHING WORKED OUT THEN...


I COULD HAVE HANDLED IT BY MYSELF ANYWAY.
OH... REALLY?

カチッ TIC; TOC
カチッ TIC TOC
COUGH
...FEEL LIKE I'M GETTING WORSE AND WORSE.
I...
I...
MIHO SHOULD BE HOME BY AROUND FIVE.
SORRY, YAMATO-KUN, BUT I'LL BE BUSY TILL LATE TONIGHT.
...PROBABLY WON'T EVEN BOTHER COMING TO VISIT ME.
ASAHINA...
MIHO-CHAN AND AYANO-SAN WON'T BE HOME FOR A WHILE.
MIGHT DIE RIGHT HERE, GORO-CHAN.
MEOW
C-COULD THAT BE-
FWUP
ASAHINA?
DING DONG

WHA'S'SUP!
パーン
THUNK


YOU REALLY WANT ME TO GO HOME? I BROUGHT A GIRL.
GO HOME...
YOU'RE MAKING ME EVEN WORSE.
PANT
PANT


H... HEY... 'SUP...
WHAT'S WITH THAT PUNY, LITTLE VOICE? I WANNA HEAR IT AGAIN, LOUDER!

UM...
ドキ
THUMP
ドキ
THUMP
ARE-ARE YOU OKAY?
AKITSUKI-KUN...

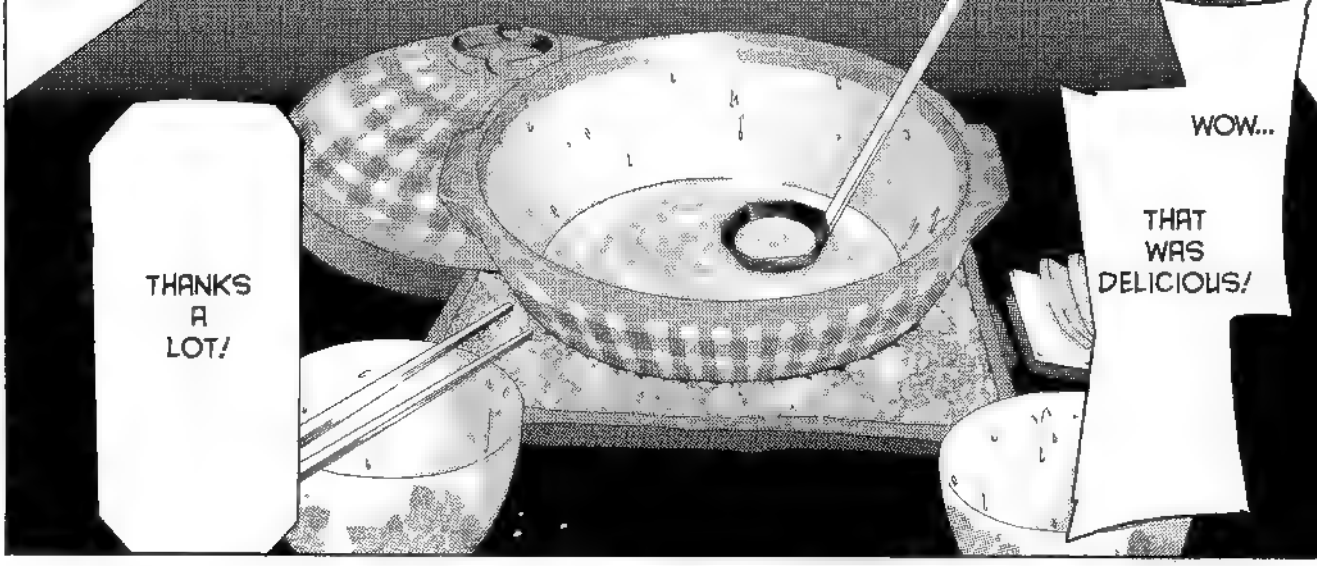
301
AKITUSKI YA
I-I WASN'T BEGGING.
SHE KEPT BEGGING ME TO TAKE HER HERE TO VISIT YOU.
HO-HONOKA-CHAN?
STOP IT!
WHILE I'M GONE, YOU CAN HAVE YOUR WAY WITH HIM!
I DON'T WANNA GET IN THE WAY, SO I'LL GO BUY SOME SODAS.
IT'S COOL. IT'S COOL.
A-AKITSUKI-KUN!
TSS
UNNNGH
TSS
A-ARE YOU OKAY?
SORRY FOR COMING BY WHEN YOU'RE SICK.
TH-THAT'S OKAY...
ちら…
GLANCE

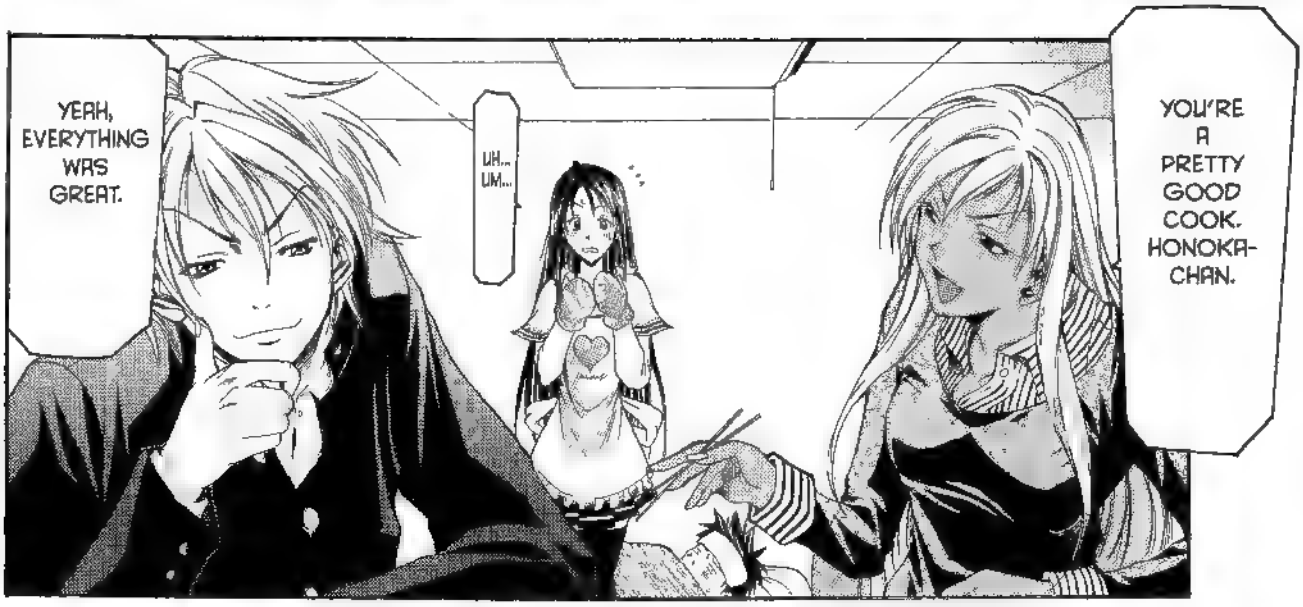
IT'S SO NICE OF YOU TO COME VISIT ME, HONOKA-CHAN.
ASAHINA DIDN'T COME EVEN THOUGH SHE LIVES NEXT DOOR.
ゴホッ
COUGH
SO THIS IS YOUR ROOM, HUH, AKITSUKI-KUN? OH, THERE'S A CAT!
MEOW
S-SORRY, IT'S KIND OF A MESS.
I-I DON'T THINK IT'S MESSY AT ALL.
WHAT?
YOU MEAN ASAHINA-SAN LIVES HERE TOO?
OH, I GET IT...
SO THAT'S WHY THEY'RE SO CLOSE.
OH, DIDN'T I TELL YOU?
N-NO...
UH... UM... ARE YOU HUNGRY, AKITSUKI-KUN? WANT ME TO MAKE SOMETHING FOR YOU?
NO... I DON'T HAVE MUCH OF AN APPETITE.

Y-YEAH?
YEAH. SO, JUST RELAX AND LET ME HANDLE THIS.
YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY, STARVE A FEVER, FEED A COLD?
THAT'S NO GOOD!
I'M A GREAT COOK! I'LL MAKE SOMETHING REALLY TASTY FOR YOU!
BUT WE DON'T HAVE ANY INGREDIENTS.
DON'T WORRY. I LIVE REALLY CLOSE BY. I'LL BRING SOME STUFF OVER!
THAT'S RIGHT... I LIVE PRETTY CLOSE TO HIM TOO...
CLICK
I'VE GOTTA HANG IN THERE IF I WANNA COMPETE WITH ASAHINA-SAN...

ASAHINA-SAN...
SHE MUST BE GOING TO VISIT AKITSUKI-KUN...
OH... UH... SAKURAI-SAN...
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?

WELL, TELL HIM I SAID I HOPE HE FEELS BETTER.
I THOUGHT I'D COOK SOMETHING UP FOR AKITSUKI-KUN.
REALLY?
NO WAY. I DON'T WANNA CATCH HIS COLD.
A-ASAHINA-SAN, YOU MEAN YOURE NOT GOING TO VISIT—
WHAT?
A!
BOINK
AH!
COUGH
COUGH
I'D BETTER HURRY!
I'VE GOTTA GET STARTED!
UH... OH...
MAYBE THEY'RE REALLY NOT THAT CLOSE AFTER ALL...


THANKS A LOT!
WOW... THAT WAS DELICIOUS!


YEAH, EVERYTHING WAS GREAT.
UH... UM...
YOU'RE A PRETTY GOOD COOK, HONOKA-CHAN.

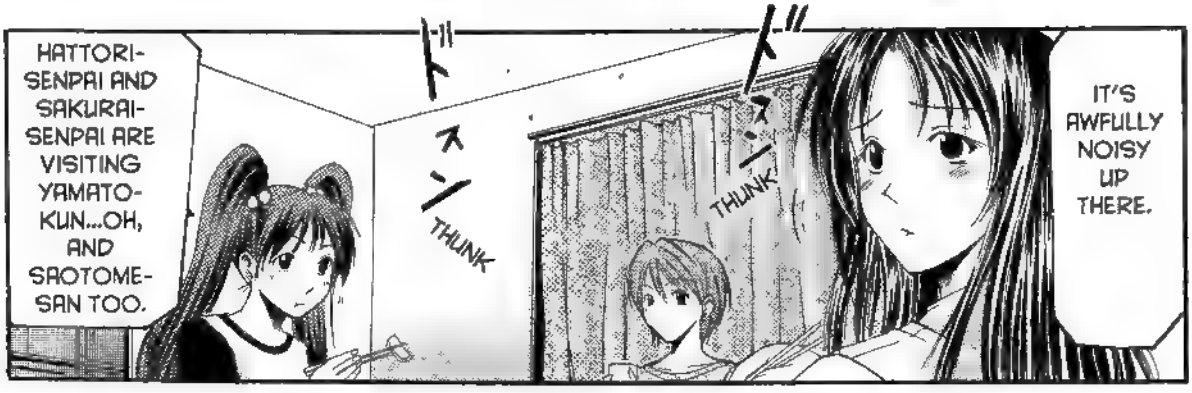
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU GUYS EVEN DOING HERE?
THAT'S RIGHT.
IT'S NOT LIKE SKIPPING ONE MEAL IS GONNA KILL YOU.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, YAMATO.

HEY, HONOKA-CHAN... WHAT ABOUT MINE?
SORRY, BUT... THERE ISN'T ANY LEFT.

I'LL MAKE YOU FEEL ALL BETTER.
DON'T WORRY, YAMATO-KUN...
ゴソ ゴソ
RUSTLE RUSTLE

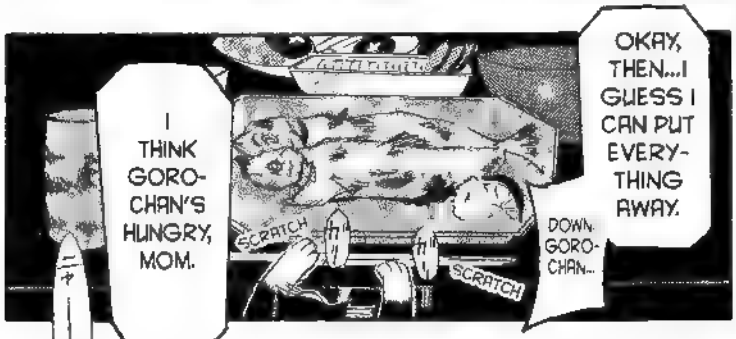
HERE YOU GO.
TIME FOR YOUR SHOT. ♡
H-HEY!
THAT THING'S REAL!
YEAH, IT IS. I HEARD YOU WERE SICK, SO...
I STOLE IT FROM THE SCIENCE LAB.
GWAH!
THWAP
SO JUST RELAX.
NO WAY!
I MAY NOT LOOK IT, BUT I AM A MED STUDENT, YOU KNOW?
FLIP FLOP
FLIP FLOP
SQUIRMING AROUND LIKE THAT_
IS ONLY GONNA MAKE IT WORSE
SHUT UP! HOLD DOWN HIS LEGS, HATTORI!
OKAY!
FLOP
FLIP
FLAP
WAH! THAT'S PROBABLY SOME WEIRD EXPERIMENTAL FORMULA OR SOMETHING.
YOU'RE GONNA TURN ME INTO A MONSTER!
YEAH, BUT WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL? I MEAN, IT'S JUST FOR PERSONAL USE.
B-BUT, DON'T YOU NEED SOME KIND OF MEDICAL LICENSE TO DO THAT?
IT'S STILL WRONG

THERE!
FWISH
!
WAHHH!
GLOOP


HATTORI-SENPAI AND SAKURAI-SENPAI ARE VISITING YAMATO-KUN...OH, AND SAOTOME-SAN TOO.
THUNK
THUNK
IT'S AWFULLY NOISY UP THERE.

SAKURA-SAN SAID SHE'D MAKE SOMETHING FOR HIM.
FUU
I'M SURE HE'S FINE.

I WONDER WHAT YAMATO-KUN IS DOING FOR D NNER.
WOO
HOO
THERE IT IS! A HIT RIGHT DOWN THE CENTER!


I THINK GORO-CHAN'S HUNGRY, MOM.
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
OKAY, THEN...I GUESS I CAN PUT EVERY-THING AWAY.
DOWN, GORO-CHAN...
MEOW

I'M STARVING.
GRUMBLE
グゥ～
THEN FINALLY LEFT.
チッ TIC TOC
チッ TIC TOC
チッ… TIC TOC
...DIDN'T EVEN COME BY TO VISIT ME.
ゲホッ
COUGH
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT ASAHINA...
COUGH
ゲホッ
HE SOUNDS A LOT WORSE THAN HE DID THIS MORNING.
ゴ～ッ
SLAM
ケホン
COUGH
COUGH
ゲホ～ッ
ゲ～ッ…
COUGH
ゲホッ…
COUGH
I CAUGHT A COLD WAITING FOR YOU OUT THERE!
HMMPH
IT'S NOT MY PROBLEM.
HMMPH!

AH!
BONK
HOW CAN YOU BE SO UNGRATEFUL, ASAHINA!
COUGH
COUGH
DAMN! I'M SO HUNGRY!
THIS SUCKS!
A-ASAHINA...
HOW'D YOU GET IN HERE?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? DON'T YOU REMEMBER THAT HOLE YOU MADE IN MY WALL?
HMMPH... SARCASTIC AS ALWAYS.
CAN'T YOU JUST REST QUIETLY?
YOU'RE SO LOUD!

HERE.
CLINK
YEAH, WELL... YOU'D BETTER AT LEAST PAY FOR MY MED C NE IF GET IT.
COUGH
DON'T BLAME ME IF YOU CATCH MY COLD.
COUGH
I WAS BORED, SO I MADE IT FOR YOU.
WHAT'S THAT?
HUH?
FWOOSH
ALL RIGHT! THANK GOD!
IT'S TAMAGOZAKE. YOU KNOW, EGGS MIXED WITH SAKE. I MADE SOME HARD-BOILED EGGS TOO. I THOUGHT I'D LET YOU TRY SOME.
I'M TOTALLY STARVING!
THANKS, ASAHINA!
GULP
OF COURSE, YOU'RE PROBABLY NOT HUNGRY SINCE SAKURAI-SAN COOKED ALL THAT—
Y- YOU ARE?
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SOMETHING SOONER?

GROSS!
WHAT?
THE EGGS ARE ALL CLUMPED TOGETHER.
WELL, ISN'T THAT WHAT TAMAGO-ZAKE IS SUPPOSED TO BE LIKE?
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO LET IT SIMMER TILL IT GETS ALL CREAMY. IT'S NOT THAT EASY.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO FINISH IT.
...SORRY.
HUH?
DON'T WORRY!
SLURP
I'M STARVING. I'LL FINISH IT NO MATTER WHAT!
BESIDES ...IT'S SO NASTY.
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO FIND ANYONE ELSE TO DRINK IT.

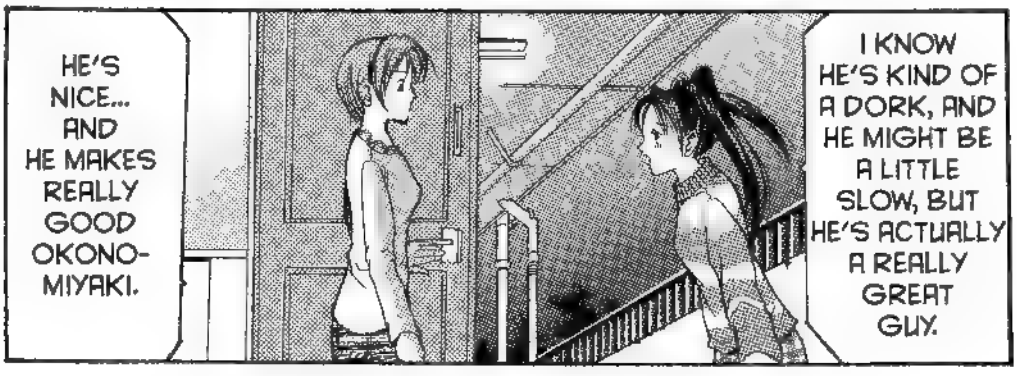
YAMATO-KUN...
.....
EVEN YOU COULDN'T SCREW UP HARD-BOILED EGGS.
CHOMP
BUT NO MATTER HOW BAD A COOK YOU ARE...
YOU PUT EGGS IN THE MICROWAVE? WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?
WHAT? YOU MEAN, YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO?
NOT UNLESS YOU WANT THEM TO EXPLODE!
ASAHIYU BATHS
THAT'S RIGHT! ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS PLOP THEM IN THE MICRO-WAVE...
KABOOM
WH-WHAT HAPPENED?
THUNK
SUZUKA'S FIRST HOMEMADE DINNER
SOUP: CLUMPY, CLUMPY TAMAGOZAKE
THE MAIN COURSE: EXPLODING EGG BOMBS
CONTINUED IN BOOK 2

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more an art than a science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction in our translation of the work or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

Okonomiyaki, page 27

Okonomiyaki is a grilled pancake made of flour, eggs, and a combination of meat and vegetables.


HE'S NICE... AND HE MAKES REALLY GOOD OKONO-MIYAKI.
I KNOW HE'S KIND OF A DORK, AND HE MIGHT BE A LITTLE SLOW, BUT HE'S ACTUALLY A REALLY GREAT GUY.

Kanagawa, page 33

Kanagawa is a prefecture in Japan located adjacent to Tokyo. The largest city in Kanagawa is Yokohama.

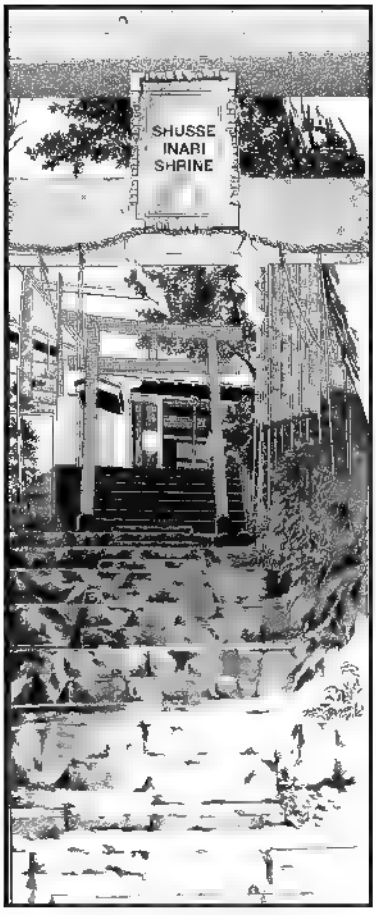
EVERY SINGLE GUY WHO TRIES TO PICK ME UP IS EXACTLY THE SAME.
ZZZZ
THEY TAKE ONE LOOK AT ME AND IT'S ALL ABOUT BOOBS, BOOBS, BOOBS...
PEANUTS

Bag of peanuts, page 34

The bag of peanuts is actually a delicious snack called *kaki-pi*, a combination of peanuts and rice crackers.

Fashion Massage, page 86

"Fashion massage" parlors are an integral part of the Japanese sex industry. Customers choose a girl to perform a massage and...um...other services.

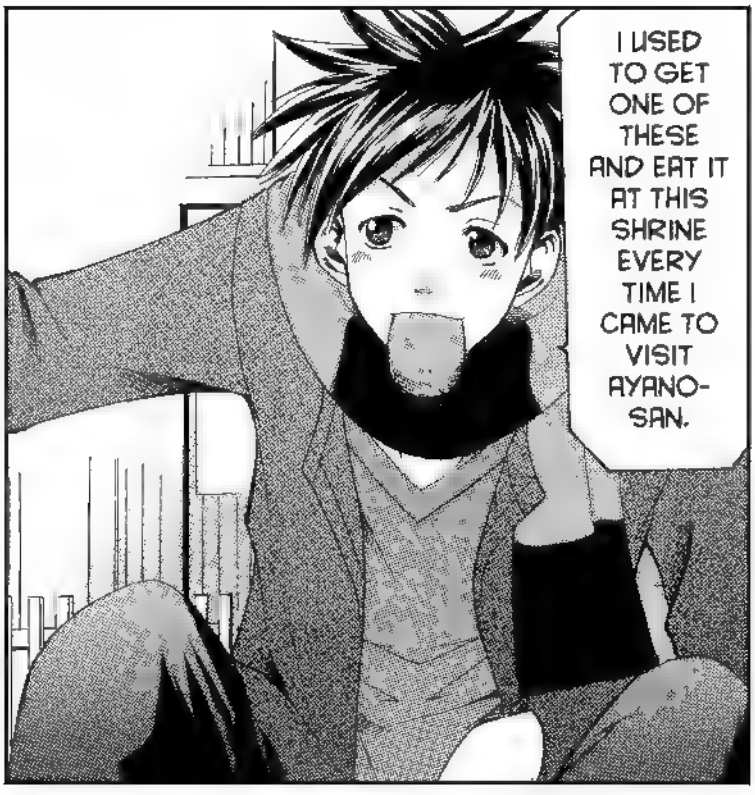


Shinto Shrine, page 92

Shinto shrines are generally located in wooded areas and often provide much needed sanctuary in Japan's concrete jungles.

Croquettes, page 95

Croquettes are a popular snack in Japan, usually consisting of meat or veggies that have been coated with bread crumbs and deep-fried.



Otaku, page 119

The term *otaku* is generally used to describe people who are obsessed with comics and anime. To learn more about the world of the Japanese *otaku*, check out *Genshiken*, published by the good folks at Del Rey Manga.

Lucky tea stem, page 125

In Japanese culture, it's said to be good luck to find a tea stem floating in your tea.

Rika-chan, page 143

Rika-chan is the Japanese equivalent of Barbie.

April, page 167

In Japan, the school year starts in April.

Tamagozake, page 181

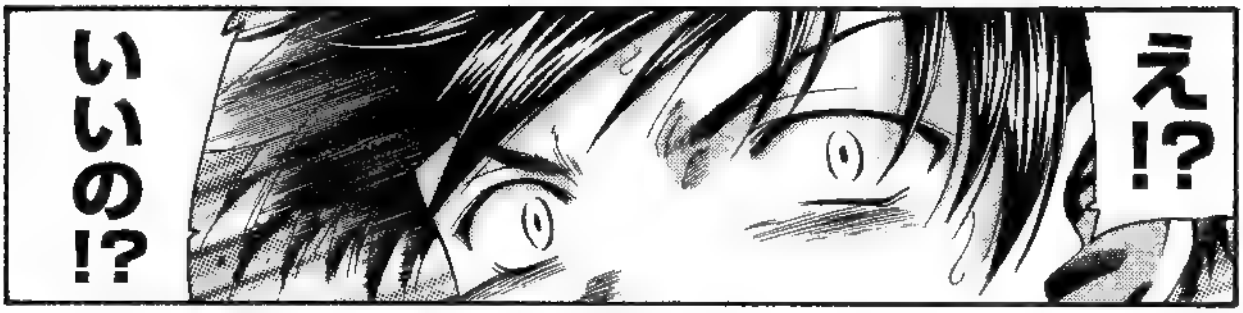
Tamagozake, made of raw eggs and sake, is a traditional home remedy for colds.

IT'S TAMAGOZAKE. YOU KNOW, EGGS MIXED WITH SAKE. I MADE SOME HARD-BOILED EGGS TOO. I THOUGHT I'D LET YOU TRY SOME.
OF COURSE, YOU'RE PROBABLY NOT HUNGRY SINCE SAKURAI-SAN COOKED ALL THAT—

Preview of Volume 2

We are pleased to present you with a preview of *Suzuka,* Volume 2. This volume is available in English now.

一緒に入ってく？
う・うん 実は
カサ忘れちゃってさ!!
入れてってくんねー!?
ダメなら別にいい・・・・


え!?
いいの!?

・・・うん
別にいいけど・

そ・そっか——
サンキュ——!!
じゃ オレが
カサ持つな!!

・・・うん

……
……
か…風……
……強いな
春一番かな
コレ……
……
そ…それじゃ
明日から あったかく
なるかもな
……
……うん
……
……うん

な・なんかいつもより
態度悪ィぞコイツ……
服部の言うこと
なんてアテに
なんねーな
……

……え？

……大和くんてさ……
足・速いんだね

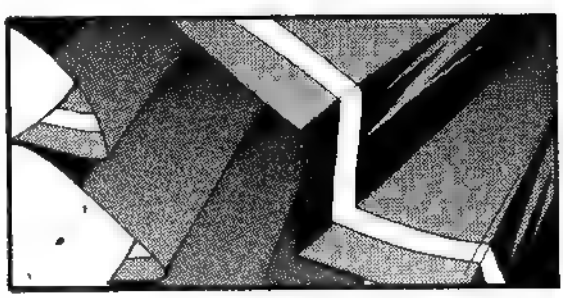
この前の体力測定で
お前相当ポイントアップ
してんだよ

ま・まァな!!
ちょっと
カッコよかったろ
!?

……
コクッ
……うん

ドキ
……え!?

きゃっ…!
ヨロッ
あ…朝比奈(あさひな)!!



あ…
ゴ…ゴメン!!
カサが
あ……
ユッ
……え
ア
ア
ア
ア
ア
ええ――!?

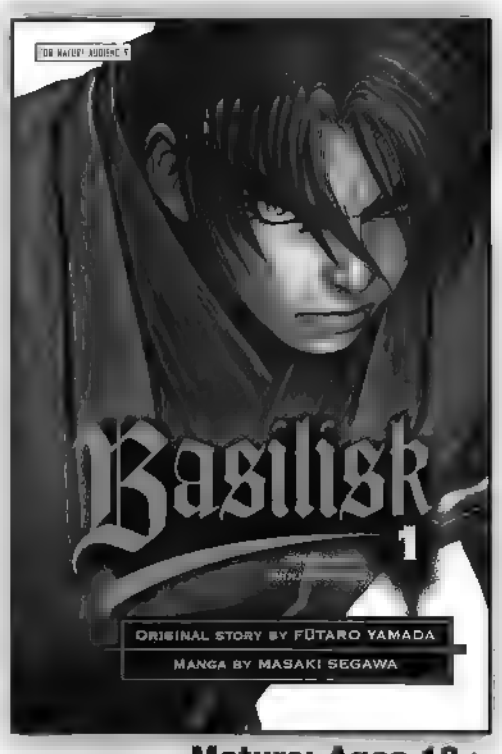
Basilisk

Original Story by Fūtaro Yamada
Manga by Masaki Segawa

THE BATTLE BEGINS

The Iga clan and the Kouga clan have been sworn enemies for more than four hundred years. Only the Hanzo Hattori truce has kept the two families from all-out war. Now, under the order of Shogun Ieyasu Tokugawa, the truce has been dissolved. Ten ninja from each clan must fight to the death in order to determine who will be the next Tokugawa Shogun. The surviving clan will rule for the next thousand years.

But not all the clan members are in agreement. Oboro of the Iga clan and Gennosuke of the Kouga clan have fallen deeply in love. Now these star-crossed lovers have been pitted against each other. Can their romance conquer a centuries-old rivalry? Or is their love destined to end in death?



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Pastel

by Toshihiko Kobayashi

I LOVE YUU

Poor 16-year-old Mugi Tadano is left heartbroken after his girlfriend moves away. A summer job at his friend Kazuki's beachside snack bar/hotel seems like the perfect way to get his mind off the breakup. Soon Kazuki sets Mugi up on a date with a girl named Yuu, who's supposed to be...well...a little less than perfect. But when Yuu arrives, she's not the monster that either of the boys had imagined. In fact, Yuu is about the cutest girl that Mugi has ever seen. But after Mugi accidentally walks in on Yuu while she's in the bath, Yuu is furious. When Mugi goes to apologize the next day, he learns that Yuu has left the island. Mugi vows to search high and low for her, but will he ever see the beautiful Yuu again?

Ages: 16+

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AIR GEAR

BY OH!GREAT

Itsuki Minami needs no introduction—everybody's heard of the "Babyface" of the Eastside. He's the strongest kid at Higashi Junior High School, easy on the eyes but dangerously tough when he needs to be. Plus, Itsuki lives with the mysterious and sexy Noyamano sisters. Life's never dull, but it becomes downright dangerous when Itsuki leads his school to victory over vindictive Westside punks with gangster connections. Now he stands to lose his school, his friends, and everything he cares about. But in his darkest hour, the Noyamano girls give him an amazing gift, one that just might help him save his school: a pair of Air Trecks. These high-tech skates are more than just supercool. They'll enable Itsuki to execute the wildest, most aggressive moves ever seen—and introduce him to a thrilling and terrifying new world.

Ages: 16+

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Gacha Gacha

By Hiroyuki Tamakoshi

Kouhei is your typical Japanese high school student—he's usually late, he loves beef bowls, he pals around with his buddies, and he's got his first-ever crush on his childhood friend Kurara. Before he can express his feelings, however, Kurara heads off to Hawaii with her mother for summer vacation. When she returns, she seems like a totally different person . . . and that's because she is! While she was away, Kurara somehow developed an alternate personality: Arisa! And where Kurara has no time for boys, Arisa isn't interested in much else. Now Kouhei must help protect his friend's secret, and make sure that Arisa doesn't do anything Kurara would regret!

Ages: 16+

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NEGIMA!™

BY KEN AKAMATSU

Negi Springfield is a ten-year-old wizard teaching English at an all-girls Japanese school. He dreams of becoming a master wizard like his legendary father, the Thousand Master. At first his biggest concern was concealing his magic powers, because if he's ever caught using them publicly, he thinks he'll be turned into an ermine! But in a world that gets stranger every day, it turns out that the strangest people of all are Negi's students! From a librarian with a magic book to a centuries-old vampire, from a robot to a ninja, Negi will risk his own life to protect the girls in his care!

Ages: 16+

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